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Champion
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Mum, Sarah, with Darcie, Macy and Bobbie-Ann

Triplets mum's 'miracle' joy!

A BEAMING mum says the birth of her naturally conceived triplet girls is "a miracle."

Sarah Johnson, 31, gave birth to Darcie, Macy and Bobbie-Ann at Ormskirk Hospital.

The triplets were conceived naturally without fertility treatment. The chance of this is approximately 1 in 25,000.

Sarah, who already has two boys, said: "It was a massive shock to learn I was pregnant with triplets. I've waited for a baby girl forever and now I've got three.

"We feel so blessed and lucky. I know we will be knee-deep in nappies and feeding bottles but we can't wait to get them home."

The family have now invested in a new seven-seater car to ferry the sisters and their two brothers who are aged five and seven.

Sarah, who is a health care assistant at Southport Hospital, added: "We are buying three of everything and have three cots ready for the sisters. It is a very exciting time."

Continued on Page 5

'A HAMMER BLOW TO LOCAL JUSTICE'

MP hits out at decision to close town's magistrates court

ROSIE Cooper has described the decision to shut Ormskirk Family Court and Magistrates Court as a "hammer blow to local justice."

The court in Derby Street was one of 18 in the North West labelled as "under-used or of poor-quality' by government officials in October and earmarked for possible closure.

And this week it was confirmed as one of 86 courts and tribunal buildings that will be shut - by no later than June and possibly as early as the end of this month!

As a result future criminal cases in West Lancashire will be dealt with at Preston Magistrates' Court, except for Skelmersdale criminal work which will instead be sent to Wigan Magistrates' Court.

All family cases will now be heard at Leyland Magistrates' Court.

According to the government report the courts put forward for closure are used on average for a third of their available time, the equivalent of less two out of five days a week.

The Ormskirk courts were only used for 29% of their possible operating time last year.

The report showed that it cost approximately £144,000 to operate the Ormskirk courts for 2014-15.

By Danielle Thompson

There are three members of staff permanently based at the courts, which have three hearing rooms.

The damning report stated that the courts provide a poor standard of accommodation for court users, staff and judiciary, lack proper interview, victim and witness facilities and have security issues in terms of the separation of judicial and public facilities.

It also stated that the building is in a poor state of repair and would require substantial expenditure to bring it up to standard.

But West Lancs MP, Ms Cooper, who had waged a 10-year battle with the HM Courts and Tribunals Service which had originally tried to close it in 2006, said: "Closing Ormskirk Magistrates' Court is simply the wrong decision.

"I believe this decision was clearly taken some time ago because HM Courts and Tribunals Service have been allocating specific caseloads to other courthouses. In doing so this created the 'surplus capacity' giving it the justification for closing Ormskirk Magistrates' Court.

Ormskirk Magistrates Court

"We know there was a desire within the Ministry of Justice and HM Courts and Tribunals Service to make this closure happen because they tried the same thing 10 years ago.

"This time it was always going to be a tougher fight because of the determination of ministers and courts management to close the courthouse.

"This decision saves them money and makes it easier for those running the courts but is not for the benefit of, or in the interests of, the residents who should have access to local justice.

"One of the fundamental objections to this closure was the poor availability of public transport to Preston and Leyland, a situation that will only get worse given further government cuts to local authority budgets forcing councils to consider the future of bus services.

Continued on Page 5

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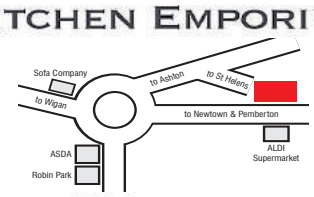

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Search is on to find borough's 'missing' Lotto millionaire!

Winning raffle prize from November super draw still unclaimed

IT could be you!

That's the message to Lotto players in West Lancashire after National Lottery officials revealed that the holder of a winning Millionaire Raffle ticket bought in the borough has yet to come forward.

The unclaimed ticket was from the special Lotto draw on Saturday, November 21 last year when 10 raffle prizes of £1 million were up for grabs.

And the search is now on to find the owner of the winning ticket with the code LIME 8233 8540 before the deadline for claiming the prize on Thursday, May 19.

If no-one comes forward with the winning ticket before that date, then the prize money, along with all the interest generated in the ensuing six months, will be donated to National Lottery-funded projects across the UK.

A National Lottery spokesperson said: "We're eager to find the mystery ticket-holder and unite them with their winnings – this amazing prize could really make a huge difference to somebody's life.

"We're urging everyone who bought a Lotto ticket in this area to check their old tickets again or look anywhere a missing ticket could be hiding.

"Try checking in the pockets of clothing, in wallets, bags and down the back of the sofa – someone out there could literally be sitting on a fortune!

"We have the champagne on ice and our fingers crossed that the lucky winner comes forward to claim their win."

To help jog Lotto players' memories about what was happening around the date of the draw in question, football fans may remember the fortunes of local clubs in action on November 21 with Liverpool hammering title favourites Manchester City 4-1 in the Premiership, Preston losing 2-1 at home to rivals Blackburn in the Championship, and Wigan Athletic defeating Shrewsbury 1-0 in League One.

If you believe you have the winning ticket call the National Lottery Line on 0845 910 0000 or 0844 338 7551 or email help@national-lottery.co.uk.

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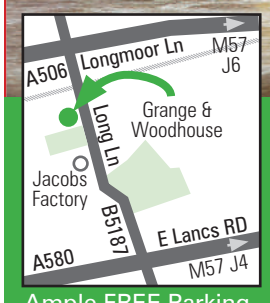

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Pre-school facility rated 'outstanding' by inspectors

STAFF and children at a pre-school facility in Aughton are celebrating after their latest Ofsted report was rated as 'outstanding' in all areas!

Pavilion Pre-School, which has been running for 40 years, is based in the grounds of St Michael's Church of England School in Delph Park Avenue and provides funded early education for two, three and four-year-old children, as well as supporting disabled children, those with special educational needs and children who speak English as an additional language.

The report, published recently, gave the pre-school 'outstanding' ratings in four different areas - effectiveness of leadership and management; quality of teaching, learning and assessment; personal development, behaviour and welfare; and outcomes for children.

The pre-school was previously rated as outstanding at their last Ofsted inspection in April 2012.

Ofsted inspector, Karen Cox, said: "Staff are excellent role models and positively promote good manners, sharing and being kind at all times.

"Children learn to celebrate and respect each other's differences, for example, they enjoy engaging in activities that explore different festivals, cultures and faiths.

"Children also thrive on the responsibility given to them and staff praise them for their achievements and contributions. They are developing excellent skills for future learning and thoroughly enjoy their time at this high-quality pre-school."

Staff and children at Pavilion Pre School celebrate their 'Outstanding' Ofsted report

Bus services to be hit by county budget cuts

Report by **Henry James**

BUS services in West Lancashire look set to be affected after Lancashire County Council agreed a budget which will see £65million worth of cuts.

Following a marathon seven-hour meeting it was agreed to save £7.5m by ending all public bus subsidies and to close 40 of the county's 74 libraries, saving a further £7m.

The authority also agreed that council tax for 2016/17 would increase by 1.99% plus a 2% increase specifically for social care services.

Bus services facing withdrawal, according to the county council, include the 2C, 3A, 5, 6, 12A and 315 routes, which cover Ormskirk, Burscough, Skelmersdale and areas of the borough, while there could also be alterations to the 375 service from Wigan to Southport via Skelmersdale and Ormskirk.

Leader of the county council, Councillor Jennifer Mein, said: "We face an unprecedented financial challenge as a result of relentless cuts in central government funding combined with a rising demand for our services, which means we've had to take a number of extremely difficult decisions.

"We are acutely aware of the impact of these decisions and have listened to the views of local people before finalising the budget. I'm pleased that we have been able to come up with an innovative solution to transport vulnerable elderly and disabled people to our day centres.

County Councillor Jennifer Mein

"However we've had no choice but to cut a number of services that people value, because the council simply can't afford to deliver them anymore. I cannot explain just how difficult it is to make decisions like these and yet the reality is that there are more ahead as the council will have to find a further £200m of savings by 2020.

Consultation

"We also need to spend the council's useable reserves to balance the budget over the next two years and it is not clear at this point how we will be able to deliver even statutory services beyond that point."

The council has said that following a four-week first stage consultation, there will be a further 12-week consultation when the libraries proposed for closure are announced.

Revised plans for transport to day centres for disabled and elderly people were announced at the meeting.

Under the new plans, the county council will use its own fleet of travel care buses to provide transport for more than 1,000 elderly and disabled people who use the county's day care centres. The buses will also continue to be used separately for their current role of taking children with special educational needs and disabilities to and from the county's special schools.

A proposed reduction in funding for the county council's flood risk management service has been dropped.

Meanwhile, councillors agreed an amendment put forward by the Independent group, which will see cross-party working groups formed to agree how to implement the budget decisions. Their work will be supported by a contingency fund of £3m to help reduce the impact of changes to services.

A further amendment from the Conservative group was also passed adding an additional £500,000 to the highways budget.

Meanwhile bus services are to be discussed at a special Burscough Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday, March 15 at 7pm at the Stanley Club.

This is a public open meeting for all residents and flooding Issues will also be on the agenda.

Brainstorm group aims to help childminders

A GROUP set up to allow childminders to 'brainstorm' ideas for children's activities has been set up in Ormskirk.

Dimples is a non-profit monthly group set up to share ideas and information, provide support and arrange group activities and trips.

The group held their first meeting – which was attended by 12 childminders and more than 20 children - at the Peacock Inn Chinese restaurant in Ormskirk to tie in with Chinese New Year.

One of the organisers, Cheryl Singleton, said: "I have just become a childminder and I would love to let people know about our group and what we provide as childminders.

"We are currently a group of 12 women from Aughton and Ormskirk and we held our first networking event where we brainstormed ideas."

To join the group or for more information, email Chery at cheryl.a.singleton@hotmail.com

Caitlin Fox

Chef in Miss Preston

A CHEF from Mawdesley is thrilled to have made it to the final 30 in the running to be crowned Miss Preston 2016.

Caitlin Fox, 20, who lives on Hurst Green and works at Cedar Farm on Back Lane in Mawdesley, wants to raise awareness of the children's charity, Variety, which Miss Preston will support this year. Variety helps children all over the UK who have to cope with sickness, disability or disadvantage and provides practical help for them and for their families.

Catlin said: "I am thrilled to have reached the finals and I am really excited to raise awareness of such a wonderful children's charity."

The winner will be revealed in April.

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Community groups and businesses urged to take part in stakeholder survey

Report by **Henry James**

Chance to have a say on council's spending plans for the year ahead

AN invitation is being sent out to community groups and local businesses in West Lancashire to give their views about where the borough council should make reductions in spending or consider increasing its charges/income.

The 2016 Stakeholder Survey gives organisations a chance to make their voices heard and influence decisions that will be taken by the council in the coming year.

The consultation is open to all organisations and runs until Sunday, March 20. To take part, go to the council's website at www.westlancs.gov.uk/your-views.

Important

Leader of the council, Councillor Ian Moran, said: "We hope that local community groups, organisations and businesses will take this opportunity to have their voices heard and will take part in this important consultation.

"We have been working in partnership with the West Lancashire Council for Voluntary Services to promote the survey and encourage participation. Hundreds of invitations have been sent out by email to groups in our borough.

"But I must stress that the consultation is open to all organisations – whether or not you receive an invitation - so please do visit the website to find out how to get involved."

Only one response can be accepted on behalf of each organisation.

If any members of organisations wish to give their views as individual residents they can do so via the Citizen Survey which is also available on the website and is open for any resident to complete.

In addition, copies of the Citizen Survey have been sent out to around 4,500 households in the borough, with invitations to take part.

Car fire arson charge

A SKELMERSDALE man has been charged with arson.

Appearing at Ormskirk Magistrates Court on February 9, Michael Ronan, 67, of Birkrig, pleaded not guilty to setting fire to an S-reg Renault Megane, valued at £150, and destroying it.

He was granted unconditional bail and will appear for trial at the same court on April 1.

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Pets store set to open at Ringtail Retail Park

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

...and discount grocer could follow if plans get the go-ahead

A NEW store is set to open at the Ringtail Retail Park in Burscough - and another could be on the way if the preliminary proposals of a discount supermarket chain come to fruition.

Pets At Home will join Booths and B & M Bargains on the £12million development at the former military airfield site when the new store officially opens on Friday, February 26 with the creation of 15 jobs.

And discount grocer, Aldi is expected to create 40 new jobs if their plans for a new food store on the site are given the go-ahead.

The new, 6,000 sq ft Pets at Home store will create jobs in veterinary and grooming roles, while a 'Groom Room' within the store will offer services including a bath and blow dry, puppy grooming and nail clipping.

The store will also offer all the usual products for cats, dogs, small animals, chickens, reptiles, birds and fish.

Pets at Home area manager, Jason Hunter, said: "There was a strong demand from Ormskirk pet owners for a Pets at Home and we're very pleased to have been able to grant them their wish.

"Pets at Home is committed to recruiting from the local area and I'm pleased we've found a team of talented individuals in Ormskirk. They're all extremely passionate about pets and can't wait to get started."

Meanwhile, a public exhibition is due to be held from 3 to 7pm on Monday, February 22 at the Thomas Galvin sports ground in Abbey Lane, Burscough when local residents and interested parties can meet the Aldi project team, to find out more about the proposal and provide feedback on the preliminary plans.

A spokesperson for Aldi said: "We are excited about the prospect of delivering an Aldi store in Burscough. We believe this proposal offers a great opportunity to provide local people with a greater shopping choice whilst also creating jobs and investment for the local economy.

"Aldi believes it is important that local residents have the opportunity to see our proposal and offer feedback into the final planning application.

"Currently Aldi customers have to travel two miles to our nearest food stores in Ormskirk and Meols Cop, which have both reached full capacity and are over-trading. It is thought a new store in Burscough will alleviate this problem whilst also saving local Aldi customers time and money in travel.

"Unlike other retailers, Aldi has a unique offering and does not act as a one-stop shop. Our stores don't have a butcher, fishmonger or bakery, nor do they provide crèche facilities or sell, for example, tobacco. Instead, Aldi is known for encouraging linked trips between its stores and other local businesses, encouraging residents to complete their shopping at other local shops, adding to the vitality and viability of the local area."

Mayor of West Lancs, Councillor Nikki Hennessy opens the new Theatre of Dreams Café in Springfield Court Nursing Home

Civic opening for nursing home's innovative cafe

A CAFE with a difference was given a civic seal of approval when Mayor of West Lancashire, Councillor Nikki Hennessy went along to perform the official opening ceremony - and enjoy a tasty cuppa!

Cllr. Hennessy visited the Springfield Court Nursing Home, Springfield Road with Mayoress Nora Melia to open the innovative Theatre of Dreams Café and meet owners, Colin and Wendy Wilkinson.

The café, which is not open to members of the public, will enable residents who are unable to leave the home often to experience the feeling of going on an 'outing' with friends and family members when they visit.

Liz Wynne, activities co-ordinator at the home, said: "The opening of the new Theatre of Dreams Café went really well, it was a really innovative idea by the owners to create somewhere more private that residents can take family and friends to when they come to visit.

"It allows them to 'go out' for a coffee - a treat that we all like to enjoy - without leaving the home.

"We know that it will help our residents to relax and it will allow their visitors to enjoy their visits even more with somewhere a little more private to sit and talk."

Court closure a blow for local justice, says MP

continued from Page 1

"I understand that West Lancashire Borough Council even offered HM Courts and Tribunals Service alternative premises in order to retain a magistrates' court presence in West Lancashire but this was refused.

"There is no question this decision is a hammer blow to the centuries-old principle of local justice."

When contacted by the Champion, a spokesperson for the courts and tribunals service said that the final date for the Ormskirk courts' closure had not yet been finalised.

Triple helping of joy for proud mum Sarah

continued from Page 1

Mum gave birth to the triplets after 33 weeks and six days. The girls each weighed in at around 5lbs and two of them are identical.

Lynne Eastham, head of nursing and midwifery at Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust, said: "Multiple births are uncommon. But for a woman to have triplets naturally, the odds become even more astonishing.

"We wish the family congratulations and the best of luck for the future."

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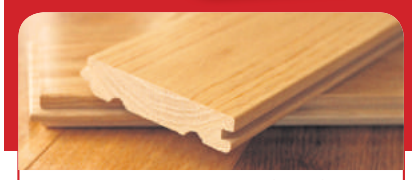

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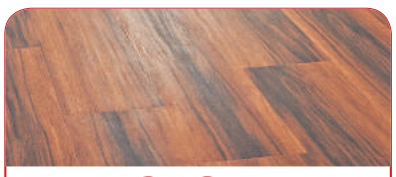

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Edge Hill named top employer in business awards

EDGE Hill University has been named the UK's top employer and will now compete to become the best in Europe in the European Business Awards.

The Ormskirk university was the only UK Ruban D'Honneur recipient in the Employer of the Year category in this year's coveted awards.

It was selected from the 678 National Champions already awarded in the first round of the competition by a panel of judges made up of European political and business leaders, academics and entrepreneurs.

The Employer of the Year award seeks to recognise organisations that "have the ability to inspire and motivate their staff by enabling career expansion, operating equal opportunity schemes and understanding the importance of a work-life balance."

Edge Hill was judged as one of Europe's most dynamic and exciting businesses, demonstrating the core principles of the European Business Awards - success, innovation and ethics, and an international mindset

Vice-chancellor, John Cater, said: "We are proud that the university has been judged as the only UK Ruban D'Honneur recipient in the Employer of the Year category. We were pleased to be given the opportunity to explain in more detail what makes Edge Hill such a special place to work and show why we were not only awarded the Times Higher's University of the Year but also the best University Workplace for 2014/15.

"To be judged against organisations across all sectors, and not only higher education, in both the UK and internationally demonstrates the outstanding opportunities we have available to all our staff are amongst the best in Europe."

John Cater vice chancellor of Edge Hill

Adrian Tripp, chief executive of the European Business Awards, added: "To survive in this economic climate is hard enough, so to innovate, prosper and grow in the way this year's Ruban D'Honneur recipients have is truly remarkable. Europe needs more companies like these. Well done to Edge Hill University."

University representatives will now undertake a face-to-face interview with the judges before the top awards are announced at a gala ceremony in June.

The European Business Awards engaged with more than 32,000 companies from 33 countries this year, a record-breaking number for the competition, now in its ninth year.

It was created to celebrate and promote business success and support the development of a stronger and more successful business community throughout Europe, and is supported by the UK Trade and Investment and the European Union.

Running alongside the independent judging part of the competition is the public vote, which will decide the 'National Public Champions' of the competition for each country.

To vote for Edge Hill University go to www.businessawardseurope.com.

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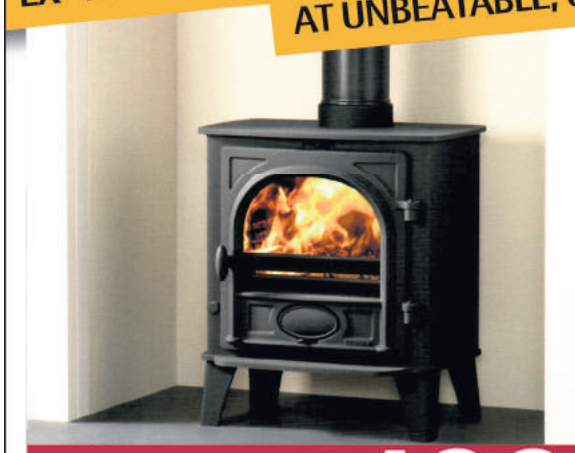

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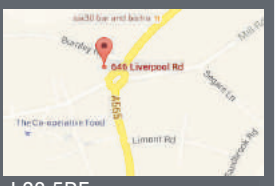

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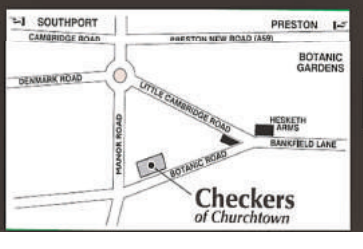

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College is 'on the money' when it comes to finance!

By **Danielle Thompson**

BURSCOUGH Priory Science College has been recognised as a Centre of Excellence in financial education.

Staff at the school successfully embedded the subject into its curriculum by working with education specialists from the Personal Finance Education Group (PFEG), to help young people understand more about money and personal finance.

Teachers are now trained to deliver effective personal finance lessons and learning activities designed to give pupils the skills, knowledge and confidence they need to manage their money.

Benefits

It is one of more than 100 schools across the country set to benefit from the programme, 50 of which are funded by the bank Santander. As a PFEG Centre of Excellence, staff will also now be able to share their expertise with other local schools.

Heateacher, Graham Clarke said: "We passionately believe that all young people have the right to an education that prepares them for life. At Burscough Priory Science College, we strive to do this every day – and by embedding financial education into the school curriculum, we can ensure that our students leave us well equipped to make decisions around their personal finances.

"I'm delighted that the hard work of staff and students have been rewarded with a Centre of Excellence award. We are already seeing the results of the high-quality financial education we are now providing, which is bringing significant benefits to our students as they take their next steps in life."

Gareth McBride, branch director at Santander in Ormskirk, said: "At Santander we believe it is important for everyone to have good basic money management skills, but particularly young people who are encountering money earlier than ever.

"Burscough Priory Science College has shown a great passion in ensuring their students have an in-depth knowledge of these essential skills and the award is well deserved."

Charlotte Tighe, mathematics teacher at Burscough Priory Science College receives the award from Clive Hawes, director of technology and operations at Santander

Solicitors present cheque to campaign to block plans for Whitemoss extension

Report by **Henry James**

SKELMERSDALE-BASED solicitors Scott Rees and Co have presented a cheque for £500 to the Action to Reduce and Recycle Our Waste (ARROW) campaign to block plans to expand the hazardous waste landfill at nearby Whitemoss.

Local campaigners have been battling against the plans to expand the landfill site significantly with the latest hearing due to be held yesterday (Tuesday) in Manchester.

In the meantime the action group have been desperately appealing to people and businesses within the community for donations towards the funds needed to cover the legal fees for their barrister and Scott Rees and Co have thrown their support behind the campaign.

Support

Scott Rees managing partner, Royston Smith, said: "We are only too pleased to offer our support to this cause. Since the plans were announced to expand the landfill we have been in opposition and hopefully the hearing next week will bring about the right outcome.

"Many of our staff live in the Skelmersdale area so we are well aware of what sort of impact that allowing this expansion will have on the local community.

"Hopefully other businesses will follow suit and donate if they haven't done already."

West Lancs shoe firm named export champ

HOTTER shoes in Skelmersdale has been named as a UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) Export Champion for 2016.

Export Champions are a group of business leaders in the North West tasked with raising the profile of exporting throughout the region, helping others to develop opportunities and fulfil their global potential.

The initiative was first developed by UKTI in 2013 and is unique to the North West. The 2016 intake comprises 26 new companies, from a games developer based in Cheshire to a Cumbrian LED manufacturer, taking the total number of Export Champions to 85.

These companies range in size and span an array of sectors, but all share a willingness to offer encouragement and peer-to-peer support to fledgling exporters.

Hotter Ltd., are a comfort-focused footwear chain, based on Peel Road and produce own-brand shoes and slippers.

The new Export Champions were welcomed at a dinner hosted at the Royal Northern College of Music. The event featured a panel discussion with Clive Drinkwater, North West regional director for UKTI, and long-standing Export Champions Glen Cooper of ATG Access Ltd and Graham James of Flexcrete Technologies Ltd, who both reflected on the benefits exporting can bring.

Clive Drinkwater commented: "Since its launch in 2013 the Export Champions programme has been a huge success, and the companies who have taken part have done a brilliant job of bringing to life the support UKTI can offer businesses looking to export.

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Company bid to make right connections for charity!

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

Andy MacGregor and Susan Holme from Face for Business with Twinkle House chief executive, Jill Boardman

STAFF at a West Lancs call handling company are aiming to make the right connections on behalf of a Skelmersdale-based charity after setting themselves a £5,000 fundraising target for 2016.

Face For Business, based at Martland Mill in Burscough decided last year to raise funds for Twinkle House, a charity which provides a free support service for children and young people who have disabilities and additional needs and their families in West Lancashire.

They raised almost £300 from cake sales, fun runs and a Christmas Jumper Day and recently donated a number of colourful bean bags to the charity.

Face For Business employee, Susan Holme, who suggested the charity, and director Andy MacGregor presented the money to the charity's chief executive, Jill Boardman.

Pledge

Now, the company has set up a page on online donation site Local Giving, with a target of £5,000 that they wish to reach by the end of the year, to contribute towards the centre's annual running costs.

As well as fundraising and donating, the company has pledged its support further by offering to answer all the charity's calls for free, to help ensure that no donations are missed.

Andy MacGregor said: "Every business misses calls but we want to ensure that Twinkle House provides a great first response and never misses any calls with donations.

"We will answer the calls they can't get to for free, helping to ensure they don't miss any, which will also ease the pressure on the centre staff."

Jill Boardman added: "These much-needed beautiful bean bags will be used in our children's support sessions.

"A huge thanks to Andy MacGregor and the team at Face for Business for their tremendous support.

"All of us at Twinkle House are looking forward to their upcoming fundraising activities."

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County police force earns 'good' rating in latest inspection

Praise for community engagement but room for improvement on Taser and Stop and Search

LANCASHIRE Police has been rated 'good' overall by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) in the latest Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy (PEEL) inspection programme

Throughout 2015 the programme inspectors have looked at how legitimate the force is at keeping people safe and reducing crime.

They also assessed the culture within Lancashire Constabulary, and how this is reflected in the force's public engagement, use of Taser and compliance with the Best Use of Stop and Search scheme.

HMIC found a positive and supportive culture within the constabulary and it was judged outstanding in the way in which it engages with its communities to understand their concerns.

However, the inspectors found it was not fully compliant with the Best Use of Stop Search scheme, and that while Taser is used fairly and appropriately, it is not always recorded accurately.

Deputy chief constable, Andy Rhodes, said: "Overall we are pleased with the findings of the inspectorate who have carried

Deputy chief constable Andy Rhodes

out a detailed and comprehensive assessment into how we engage with our staff and the public, including how proportionately we use powers such as Stop and Search and the use of Taser.

"Of particular note they have highlighted our continued commitment in relation to community engagement which is something we have continued to work hard at despite the financial challenges of the last five years.

"However, we still have a long way to go and we are far from complacent. We need to tighten up on our data around Taser and Stop and Search, as well as really push on with our work to embed the Code of Ethics throughout the constabulary."

The force was rated 'outstanding' in how it understands, engages with and treats the people it serves with officers and staff committed to understanding and serving the communities of Lancashire.

HMIC said the force used an extensive and effective range of both online and face-to-face ways of engaging with the public.

Clive Grunshaw, Lancashire's police and crime commissioner, said: "We can be proud of our police force and the good work being done every single day, which has been rightly recognised in this report.

"It's a shame we missed out on a higher rating because we tailored our approach to improving the culture within the force to address local issues rather than adopting the broader national framework identified in the Code of Ethics.

"However, we fully take on board the recommendations and will always look to improve wherever we can."

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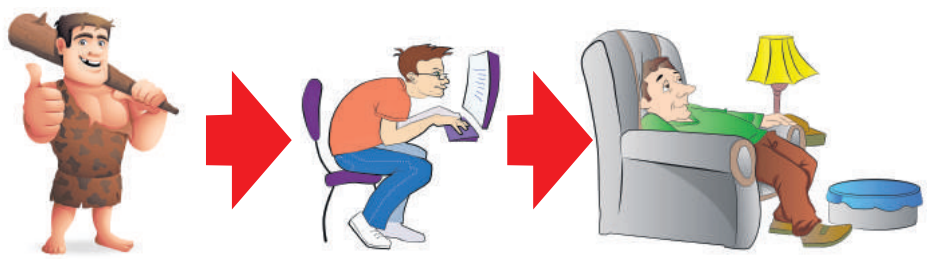

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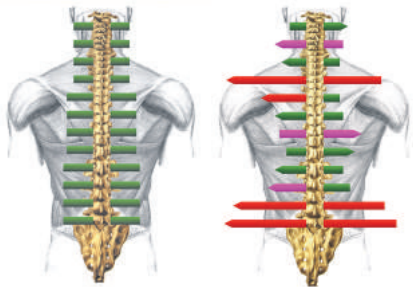

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport PR9 0QA
tel 01704 392 400 email editor@champnews.com

Proposed site for new pedestrian crossing is the wrong place

LANCASHIRE County Council are currently seeking consultation with local residents and businesses about plans to site a new pedestrian crossing on a busy Ormskirk street.

The new crossing would go on Aughton Street allowing pedestrians to cross from Morrisons to where the Acropolis is.

The new crossing is not needed here, this will impact on the local businesses and reduce parking available for them.

There already is a crossing by St Anne's School and one at the main traffic lights. If there had to be another one, further down by Brookside might be a better place.

New crossings are costly, the money would be better spent in Ormskirk on resurfacing Cottage Lane, which gets worse by the day, or installing a pedestrian crossing at the junction of Knowsley Road/Wigan Road where hundreds of Ormskirk schoolchildren take a chance when crossing the road each day.

With regards to the reader who contacted the Champion about the new weight restriction signs obscuring the traffic lights at County Road, Ormskirk, I have contacted Lancashire County Council to look into this.

The junction is far too cluttered with signs as it is, add to that flyposting which often takes place, and the design of the junction and it all leads to the increased possibility of accidents taking place.

Our roads are overly-cluttered with signs. What do other readers think?

Edward McCarthy, Conservative candidate for Knowsley Ward 2016

Borough's roads are a disgrace and dangerous for cyclists too!

I AM writing to express my anger at the disgraceful state the local roads of West Lancs are currently in.

Whichever route you choose to take is equally as bad as the next, and driving around now is more like driving round an assault course or an off-road track, trying to avoid huge potholes which can cause a massive amount of damage to your vehicle.

The councils must be aware of this, yet nothing seems to be getting done anywhere!

Where I live in Burscough is particularly bad, every 10 yards or so is a large pothole that sometimes cannot be avoided, no matter how hard you try.

It's about time this was sorted out once and for all - and for once, maybe someone can do the job properly!

And let's spare a thought for the cyclists, for whom riding around on these roads is now like a deathtrap.

A damaged suspension can be fixed, but a cyclist's life cannot be brought back after a serious accident as a result of one of these potholes.

Sort it out!

D. A. A., disgruntled road user

PICTURE of the week

Eva the Eagle and handler Marc from West Lancashire based Excel Falconry who took their birds of prey to feature in Maghull's St George's RC School Medieval Day activities last week.
Picture by Martyn Snape.

Call to support wind farms failed to mention their glaring weakness

RE: Elizabeth Cleary's letter inviting support for wind farms (February 10), I really can't allow this biased and emotional plea to stand without challenge.

She is eloquent in outlining all the advantages of wind power without addressing the one serious weakness - because of their variability, wind farms are useless for generating base load.

They can't generate in very high winds; the vanes have to be feathered or they'd vibrate to destruction. And, of course, they're useless on calm days.

So some other fuel has to take over. And none of the alternatives can be efficiently switched on and off as the gap left by the non-productive wind farm becomes apparent.

So which fuel does she suggest we deploy for that all-important base load?

Dr Rod Flanagan, High Moss, Ormskirk

These monstrosities should be out at sea

I WAS quite surprised that the Champion only put a letter in favour of the industrial wind plant in Altcar, disregarding all the residents who do not want these monstrosities in West Lancashire.

I noticed that, I think, two people on the council website in favour of them, did not live in the area. I'm sure their misguided views would be entirely different if they did.

Imagine looking out of your window on what was once a beautiful view of birds, wildlife etc. and seeing these awful things.

Put these awful things miles out at sea. nobody wants them in West Lancashire as I'm sure the planning committee will agree.

R Marshall, by email

Drop us a line...

HAVE you got a view on a topic of local or national interest?

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Please note that the editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

Plot holders were never told allotments were temporary

AS indicated in the article in the Champion earlier this month about the potential sale of the Water Tower in Ormskirk there are a number of fears for both plot holders and local residents about the future of the site.

It does not help, however, when misleading statements are made by a West Lancs Council spokesperson.

The plot holders given notice to quit have never been advised, either verbally or in writing, that the plots would be a temporary arrangement.

In addition, while there may be some investigation into expanding the provision of allotments in the area, very little indication has been provided where this could be and may not come to fruition.

This is despite the pertinent governmental emphasis to extend such provision.

Stan King, chairperson of the Tower Hill Allotments Society, Ormskirk

Infernal turbines have become a blot on our fabulous landscape

WE were interested to read the letter concerning the use of wind farms rather than nuclear/fossil fuels and referencing Cornwall and its wind farms/turbines.

Well, we live in Cornwall and these infernal, hideous, ugly things have become a total blot on the fabulous landscape of this beautiful county.

Virtually every week one will appear either on a hilltop or in a group - this particular group are hundreds of feet high and have totally ruined the breathtaking vista to be had at the top.

There are countless battles with local groups campaigning to stop the spread of these dreadful things.

We are not experts on these turbines but from what we have researched they are often inefficient- obviously only generating energy when its windy, which it often isn't.

I totally appreciate what the writer is trying to say but I think she would have a different opinion if she had these in her locality. They are also exceptionally noisy.

Also, as a side issue there is now another threat to the countryside - miles and miles of fields full of solar panels, a grey, gloomy lifeless sprawl of glass and plastic - a complete waste of valuable land.

We would be better burning all the millions of tons of rubbish rather than landfill it all therefore producing energy.

Let's put 30 turbines 300 feet tall on Rivington Pike and see how they look!

The Champion is sent to us from a friend in Southport where I was born and bred so it was an interesting connection.

Dave and Sue Baldwin, Newquay

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War talk with a difference

AN unusual talk giving an insight into the First World War through the eyes of soldiers' families is being held on Friday, February 19.

Military historian, Steve Williams will present his talk entitled 'A Mother's Tears' at the Guide headquarters in Moorgate, Ormskirk starting at 5.45pm.

Steve, who was inspired after seeing a tribute in a 'In Memoriam' newspaper column from June 1918, has put together some very poignant stories as a result of his extensive research into the 1914-18 conflict over the years, viewing the so-called Great War through different eyes.

Got a story? Ring the News Desk on 01704 392400

Triathlon returns - at the double!

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

LAST year's initial West Lancashire Triathlon was so successful that organisers are planning to run two events this year!

That inaugural event in September last year attracted more than 400 entries. Now to ensure that all potential competitors are able to take part there will be spring and summer competitions.

The West Lancs Spring Triathlon will be staged on Sunday, April 10, with the West Lancs Summer Triathlon earmarked for Sunday, August 28, both at the Edge Hill University campus.

The triathlons are being promoted by Vital Events, a group formed by athletes to create single and multi-sport events in West Lancashire and Sefton.

Alan Copland, one of the organisers, said: "To have more than 400 competitors was amazing for any event in its first year and so to accommodate everyone who wants to take part this year we're running it twice!

"The April event is already more than half full and the August event also already has a good number of entries.

Prizes

"The events are ideal for novices and experienced athletes alike with a 400m swim in the new Edge Hill University pool, a 20km cycle around the quiet roads to the north of the university campus and a run around the purpose-built running trail inside the campus itself."

Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third male and female athletes overall, along with age-group prizes for first male and female in each category.

All entrants, who must be aged 15 or over, will receive a custom-designed technical T shirt and finishers will also receive a bespoke West Lancashire Spring/Summer Triathlon 2016 medal and goody bag.

Entry fees are discounted if booked earlier. They cost between £32 and £40 for British Triathlon Members and from £35 to £43 for non-members.

Further details are available at www.vita-levents.co.uk.

An athlete pictured enjoying last year's first West Lancs Triathlon. Photo by David Gordon

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Campaigners' warming brew for fracking protester Lee

Anti-fracking protester Lee Miller (centre) flanked by local campaigners Martin Illingworth and Maureen Mills

A WARM welcome and a warming cuppa were awaiting for anti-fracking protester, Lee Miller in West Lancashire during his 120-mile walk along the Leeds-Liverpool Canal to highlight the controversial issue.

He was joined by local campaigners, including Maureen Mills, chairperson of Halsall Against Fracking and Martin Illingworth from Frack Free Skelmersdale, for the leg of his walk between Scarisbrick and Halsall and almost as far as Aintree.

And as well as offering moral support, they also treated Lee to a well-deserved and much-needed cup of tea to help combat the miserable weather as he continued his mission to raise awareness of the fight to prevent fracking in the region.

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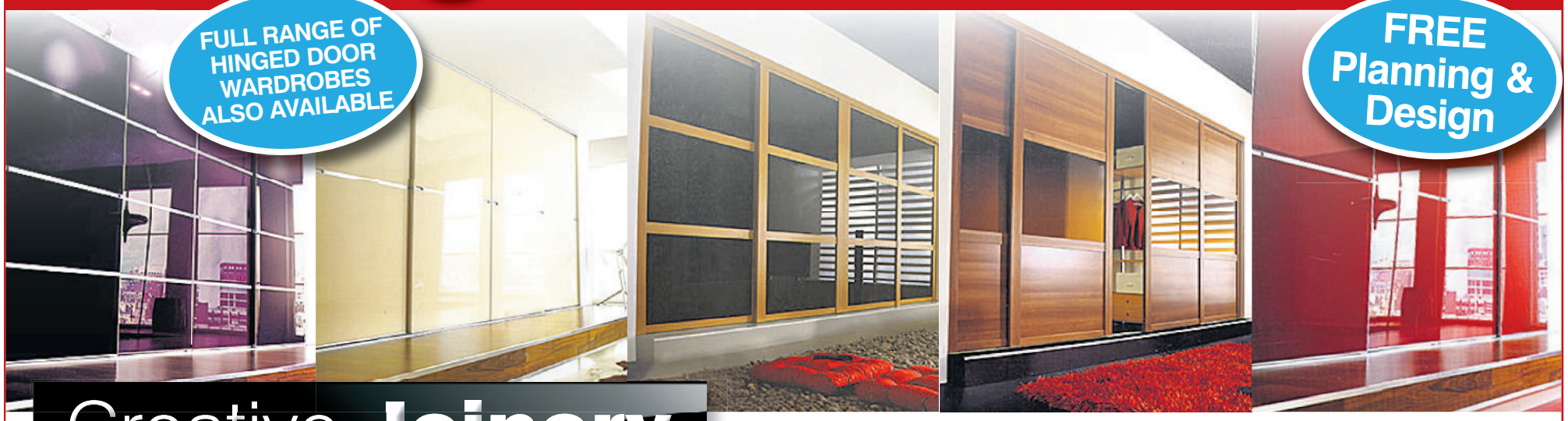

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Surge in 999 calls prompts plea by ambulance chiefs

Report by **Ollie Cowan**

AMBULANCE bosses in the region are urging residents to make sure 999 calls are really necessary following an increase in the number being made in recent weeks.

Last week saw a surge in 999 calls to the North West Ambulance Service, with the trust recording a 22 per cent rise in calls and a 24 per cent rise in life-threatening 'red' calls, compared to the same time last year.

This unexpected rise presented the trust with a huge challenge and meant that some patients had to wait longer than they should have done for a response, while those with less-serious conditions were told that an ambulance could not be sent.

> "One patient called to report a pain in her hand and another had cut their toenail and the toe was hurting!"

Assistant director of operations, Ged Blezard, commented: "We are better resourced than ever before. Last year we increased our front-line staff by 3.5 per cent and our call handling staff by 6.1 per cent.

"However, even so, the rise in 999 calls is a challenge for us and when we have unexpectedly busy days, it is patients who suffer.

"I have worked in the ambulance service for 30 years, starting out on the front line myself and I cannot understand why people call us for minor ailments which can be easily dealt with by either visiting a pharmacy, a GP or attending a walk-in or minor injuries unit.

"The ambulance service is not a taxi or mobile first aid service. We are here for life-threatening or potentially life-threatening emergencies and those who call us for minor complaints will be advised to use the right service.

"While most people do genuinely call for an emergency, there are still those who call for minor ailments that do not warrant an ambulance response. For example, one patient called to report a pain in her hand and another had cut their toenail and reported that the toe was hurting.

"Another had a cut to the forehead in the morning and called 999 at 9pm to say it might need stitches. One was worried because they had swallowed chewing gum and another caller said they had 'had the runs' all day

"All of these callers were advised to seek advice elsewhere. Each 999 call to our control centres costs the NHS £8.47 and more importantly, can tie up a line needed by someone who urgently needs help.

"A fully-crewed ambulance response and subsequent journey to hospital costs approximately £240.

"Our message to the public is that if your call is not urgent, it would make more sense to seek advice elsewhere before calling."

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£5million project to repair county's flood-damaged infrastructure

LANCASHIRE County Council has announced a £5million project to repair roads, bridges and foothpaths damaged by widespread flooding this winter.

The December floods were unprecedented in their widespread impact across the county with highways and transport infrastructure suffering significant damage.

The initial estimate could increase once underwater structural examinations and cost estimates for road repairs have been completed. The project will be funded by the Department for Transport.

County Councillor John Fillis, Lancashire's cabinet member for highways and transport, said: "As well as causing great distress to those people whose homes and businesses were flooded, the damage wrought by the December flooding also caused significant damage to the county's transport infrastructure, particularly our highways and bridges. That damage continues to cause real inconvenience to a great many people and businesses.

Flooding in Rufford in December

PRIORITY

"Our engineers have been working flat out to identify the damage and look at how it can be put right. The £5million provided by central government will enable us to get on with repairs to our to 10 priority projects, those which are causing the biggest problems.

"Many of the damaged roads and bridges belong to private landowners. We have been contacting these landowners and working hard to help them identify sources of funding which may be available to help them make the necessary repairs."

The government's communities secretary, Greg Clark said: "We're determined to stand squarely behind communities whose lives were turned upside down by the recent floods – including getting key infrastructure back up and running.

"That's why we're pulling out all the stops to help Lancashire get major roads and bridges fixed, making sure local residents and businesses get back on their feet as soon as possible."

The full cost of repairing key local transport infrastructure will not be known until the full assessment of the damage has been completed. In the event that the total estimated cost is in excess of £5million a request will be made to the Department for Transport for additional funding to be considered.

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Cloudy2Clear Announce Trusted Trader Partnership

Consumer champions Which? have now joined the thousands of customers who recognise that Cloudy2Clear Windows really are a business that you can TRUST. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has received the coveted 'Which Trusted Trader' status after going through a rigorous accreditation process entirely focussed on customer service.

Group Managing Director Marcus McGee believes that Which? have endorsed Cloudy2Clear's long standing company policy of delivering the highest standards possible at all times. 'Our service is simple. If your double glazing has misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 25 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Whilst a number of tradespeople perhaps don't focus on customer care as much as they should do, we make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle.

Locally Cloudy2Clear service the Crosby, Litherland, Aintree, Maghull, Walton, Anfield, Netherton & Bootle areas and manager Lewis Richardson agrees that this approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated as both my customers and, obviously a body as nationally important as Which? now recognise.'

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Vet charity in pets obesity crisis alert

Snacks, scraps - and even booze! - to blame says PDSA

A COMBINATION of snacks, scraps, takeaway leftovers - and even booze - continues to fuel an obesity crisis among pets in the North West, according to leading vet charity, PDSA.

With new data showing that a staggering 5.5 million cats, dogs and rabbits in the UK are being fed treats every day, the charity's vets are warning owners that they could be drastically shortening their pet's life expectancy.

Owners have admitted to indulging their pets by giving them fatty, sugary, and in some cases dangerous, foods. These include cake, chocolate, biscuits, crisps, chips, takeaway and even alcohol.

These diet disasters are taking their toll, according to PDSA, with a third of dogs and a quarter of cats now classed as overweight or obese.

Vet professionals predict that the problem will continue to grow – with 80% believing there will be more overweight pets than healthy ones by 2019.

To help fight the flab PDSA is today launching its annual Pet Fit Club competition and is inviting owners of overweight and obese pets in West Lancs to take part in the UK's biggest and most successful pet slimming competition.

One pet owner, Alan Thomas, owns two American Bulldogs, Cilla and Shyla, who need to lose a combined weight of four stone.

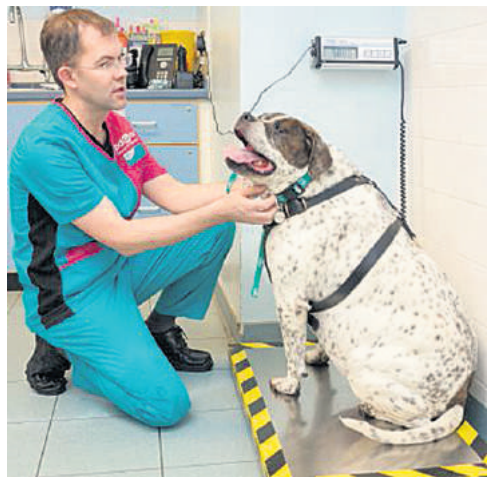
Alan said: "Cilla weighs in at over nine stone, while Shyla tips the scales at a slightly less but still hefty, 7 stone 9lbs.

"We regularly gave them treats including crumpets, pasta, and biscuits. Dog biscuits were given 'like they were going out of fashion'.

"We adopted Cilla from an animal rescue centre and they gave her the name. She was actually very underweight when we first brought her home.

"We spoilt her because she'd had such a rotten start to life after being abandoned.

"With Shyla, her weight gain is more down to us. We just can't resist her puppy dog eyes or begging."



A PDSA vet checks out Cilla

PDSA vet, Vicki Larkham-Jones said: "Pet obesity can be tackled, and through a diet and exercise programme like Pet Fit Club we can transform fat pets into fit pets,

"Nearly half of pet owners believe that obesity is the biggest threat to animal welfare in the 10 years – yet pets continue to be fed unsuitable diets which is fuelling the problem.

"The good news is that we can make a real difference, starting now. With the right food and regular exercise, it is easy to keep pets fit and healthy. Over the past 11 years, PDSA Pet Fit Club has helped transform the lives of some of the UK's most obese pets. Through the competition we have helped 100-plus animals lose more than 63 stone and once again we are inviting owners with overweight pets to enter."

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Chance to explore Viking heritage

THE West Lancashire Heritage Association is to host a special evening exploring Lancashire's Scandinavian heritage.

Entitled Vikings In Lancashire, the event will feature presentations and discussions with three leading experts on the Vikings in the North-West, professors Steve Harding and Judith Jesch from the University of Nottingham and Dr David Griffiths from the University of Oxford.

Robert Ireland from the West Lancashire Heritage Association said: "The three eminent Viking specialists will speak about the many legacies the Vikings left us in the south west Lancashire and Wirral areas, including their genetic inheritance."

Ormskirk is one of the many Lancashire towns and villages founded by the early Norse settlers and the event will cover the whole of the legacy left behind by the intrepid seafarers, including place names, treasure, archaeology, runes and their DNA.

It will be held at the Langham Hall, Emmanuel Methodist Church, Derby Street, Ormskirk, on Wednesday March 16, from 7 to 9.30pm.

The venue has been switched following the recent closure of Ormskirk Civic Hall and anyone wishing to attend is asked to email robertireland at 1947@hotmail.com or ring or text 07779 852 172.

Professor Steve Harding (far right) at a previous presentation

Council defends record on young people's jobs

WEST Lancs Council is being urged to provide more employment opportunities for young people aged under 20.

Derby ward councillor Adrian Owens called on the local authority to set an example by creating apprenticeships after recruitment figures revealed that no 16 to 19-year-olds were taken on by the council in 2015.

However, a council spokesperson defended its record on promoting and encouraging employment opportunities for young people, citing its links to the Work Start programme and "strong relationships" with Edge Hill University and West Lancs College.

Councillor Owens said: "Last year I showed in budget proposals how we could create apprenticeships and traineeships at the council within the tight financial position. It's hugely disappointing then that the council haven't done more.

"The council leader is quite rightly promoting apprenticeships elsewhere in the borough but as one of the largest employers in West Lancashire, the council should be setting an example.

"The council's current workforce is ageing. We need to create a more balanced age profile among the workforce for succession planning. Added to which young people will bring a new perspective, energy and ideas to the organisation."

A council spokesperson responded: "The council welcomes applications from all sectors of the community, including looking for opportunities to bring younger people into its workforce.

"The council offers apprenticeships in regeneration and property services, as well as two fixed-term graduate posts in planning services.

"Managers actively review vacancies as they arise to assess whether they would be suitable to convert posts to apprenticeships where there is scope for creating trainee vacancies.

"We have strong relationships with Edge Hill University and West Lancashire College and have provided work experience placements for students at these organisations.

"In addition, we pass on any appropriate job adverts to the local college and university to help increase circulation to younger people and have recently attended the Edge Hill careers open day.

"The council has encouraged work experience placements of younger people through the Work Start programme run in partnership with Job Centre Plus and Lancashire County Council.

"A number of our vacancies have certain skill and qualification requirements, which may not be possessed by younger people. All appointments are made based purely on merit, and not on factors such as age as this would be discriminatory."

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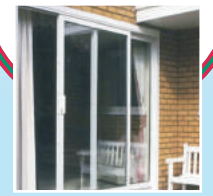

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Teacher training body celebrates becoming an accredited provider

A TEACHER Training body for Sefton and West Lancashire has celebrated becoming an accredited provider with a well-attended launch.

The Associated Merseyside Partnership School Centred Initial Teacher Training provider (SCITT) aims to address the shortage of quality new teachers in local schools.

AMP SCITT differs from other providers because it is led by practicing "outstanding" teachers from a variety of schools.

The Department for Education (DfE) has recognised the strength and impact that the collaboration of schools across Merseyside has made in the response to recruitment of quality teachers through the School Direct Teacher Training programme.

The head of AMP SCITT, Pauline Treanor, said: "AMP allows us to train and empower future outstanding teachers.

"This school-led route into teaching aims to attract talented people, including career changers, to apply for a more personalised programme."

The teacher training programme offers graduates who wish to train as teachers an opportunity of developing teaching skills within the school environment to successfully complete their PGCE with QTS qualification.

Since embarking on School Direct teacher training in 2013, 100% of trainees have been graded outstanding or good, leading to all applicants who apply for teaching being successfully appointed, with many gaining employment within the Partnership of schools.

Working with over 25 schools in Liverpool, Sefton, Halton and West Lancashire, AMP SCITT is a partnership brought about to ensure the success of future new teachers and to ensure that pupils do not miss out.

Liverpool Hope University is a supportive partner and accredits the Masters element of the programme.

A spokesperson for AMP SCITT said: "Our first cohort of AMP SCITT trainees are an amazing group of aspiring teachers and will become future leaders of education."

Andrew Pierce, English trainee stated: "I chose AMP over a university course because there is a stronger focus on practical experience, as well as more opportunities for professional development. This meant an easier transition into full-time work as a teacher."

Alison Brady, AMP SCITT manager, said: "If you want to inspire local children to fulfil their potential then we want to hear from you."

AMP SCITT are holding a Train to Teach event on Tuesday, March 1, register online at https://amp-scitt.eventbrite.co.uk

For further information visit http://amp-scitt.lydiatelearningtrust.co.uk/or contact teacher training@deyeshigh.co.uk or on 0151 526 3814.

Community group fundraiser

THE Hilldale Community Association are holding an entertainment evening on Saturday, March 12 when husband and wife duo, Stephen and Pernille Quigg will sing, tell stories and enjoy banter with the audience.

This will be held at Hilldale Village Hall, Chorley Road, Parbold starting at 7.30pm and anyone wishing to attend is welcome to take along their own drinks and nibbles.

Tickets, priced £7.50, can be ordered via email to Hilldale@btconnect.com.

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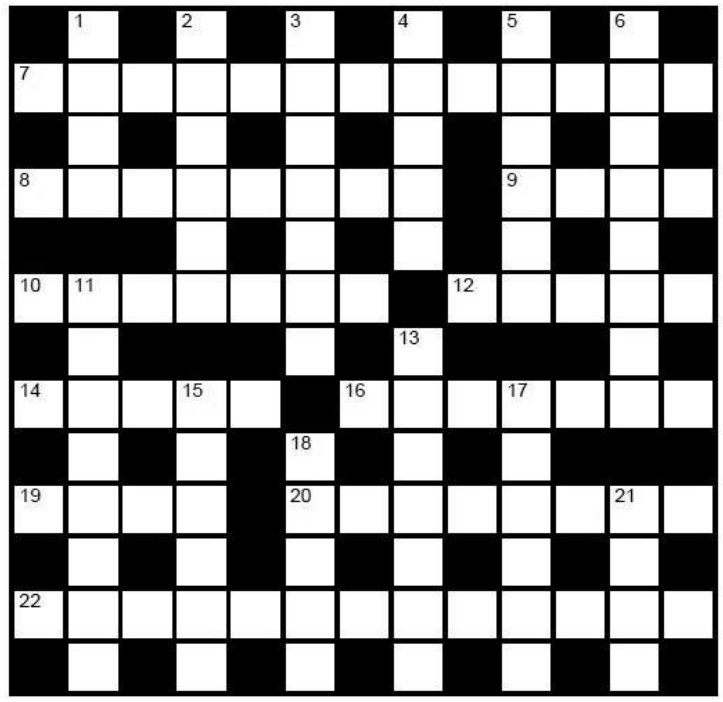

Last week's solutions:

Across: 7 Shrill. 8 Relive. 9 Save. 10 Casework. 11 Skyward. 13 Demob. 15 Agile. 17 Would-be. 20 Bicuspid. 21 Stub. 22 Chilli. 23 Blithe.

Down: 1 Thwack. 2 Nine. 3 Placard. 4 Brisk. 5 Flywheel. 6 Overdo. 12 Wilfully. 14 Cordoba. 16 Geisha. 18 Bought. 19 Aphid. 21 Slit.

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ACROSS

7 Composite building material and technique used for building walls (6,3,4)
8 Expression of gratitude (5,3)
9 Smooth-talking (4)
10 Holiday camp worker or historical name for a British soldier (7)
12 Abdominal pain often suffered by babies (5)
14 Wash with clean water to remove soap or impurities (5)
16 Nourishing drink for invalids (4,3)
19 Cowshed (4)
20 Upright (8)
22 Conclusively (4,3,3,3)

DOWN

1 Clean with water (4)
2 Referring to origin (6)
3 Period starting on January 1st (3,4)
4 Follow as a result of (5)
5 In a slow tempo (6)
6 Person on the run or in hiding (8)
11 Providing moral or intellectual instruction (8)
13 Turn to stone (7)
15 Sound directed through two or more speakers (6)
17 Members of a male religious order (6)
18 Planned public or social occasion (5)
21 Rod passing through the centre of a wheel (4)

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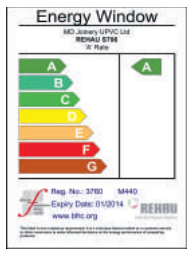

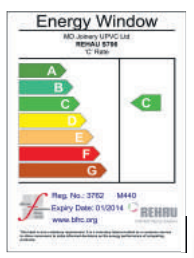

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Dancers step up for lung charity

THE West Lancashire and Southport Breathe Easy Group has been given a boost - thanks to the fundraising efforts of a long-standing supporter.

Officials of the charity, which is linked to the British Lung Foundation, were presented with a cheque for £1,230 at Ainsdale Methodist Church by local dance class organisers, Gloria Baker and John Gaffney.

The money was the proceeds of a New Year's Eve Dance organised by Gloria and John Gaffney, along with collections made on monthly minibus trips throughout 2015.

Gloria has long been a supporter of the Breathe Easy Group, as her husband, also called John, suffers from pulmonary fibrosis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

The Breathe Easy Group supports local people with respiratory disease and liaises with staff at both Southport and Ormskirk hospitals with funds used to help improve provision for patients and pass on information.

Monthly meetings are held on the third Monday of each month, from 11.15am to 12.30pm at the Guide Headquarters in Green Lane, Ormskirk. For further information ring 01704 808891.

Ainsdale dancers present the funds to the Breathe Easy group

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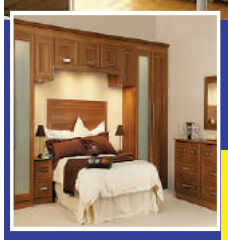

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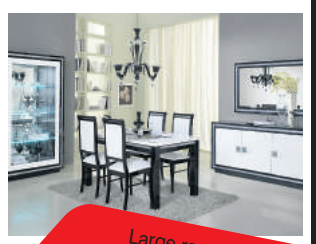

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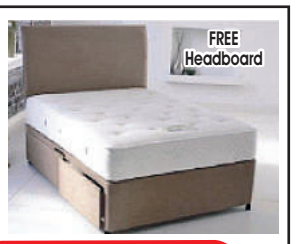

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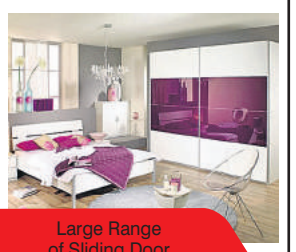

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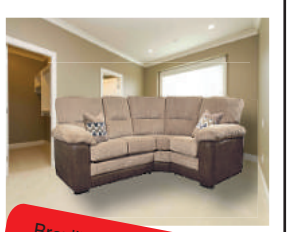

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Bid to brighten up town centre

Pear Trees planted on Moor Street

ORNAMENTAL pear trees have been planted along Moor Street in Ormskirk as part on an ongoing regeneration scheme.

Work began on the development scheme in February last year to improve the pedestrianised section of Moor Street from Moorgate to the clock tower.

The project, a partnership between Lancashire County Council and West Lancs Borough Council, also involved resurfacing the pedestrianised section of the street with new paving to complement that used on nearby Aughton Street and Church Street as well as new seats, decorative lights, litter bins and tree planting, and a revised layout to better accommodate the market stalls.

The seven new flowering pear trees were installed last week and will bear white flowers and green leaves in the spring, while the leaves will turn red in the autumn.

Lancashire County Council chose the trees as they will not drop fruit and are very adapt at surviving in an urban environment.

Guest role for former bishop

THE former Bishop of Hallam (Sheffield) Diocese, Bishop John Rawsthorne was guest speaker at the annual Clergy Night event of the Ormskirk branch of the Catenian Association at Hurlston Hall, Scarisbrick.

Originally from Crosby, Bishop Rawsthorne studied at St Joseph's Collage in Up Holland and was ordained in June 1962. He was appointed Bishop of Hallam in 1977.

On his 75th birthday in 2011, in accordance with canon law, he offered his resignation as Bishop of Hallam to Pope Benedict XVl but this was refused and he remained in office until his official retirement in 2014.

Pictured at the event are (from left) president of Ormskirk Catenians, Tony Charnock; Bishop John Rawsthorne; Ormskirk St Anne's priest, Father Godric; Ormskirk Catenians vice-president, John Gannon and Father John Gaine from Southport

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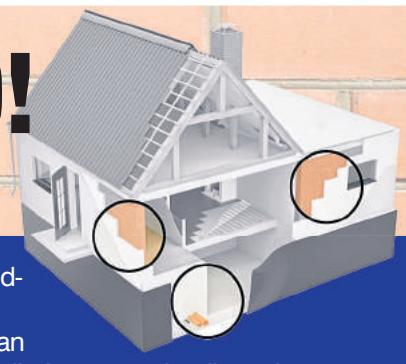

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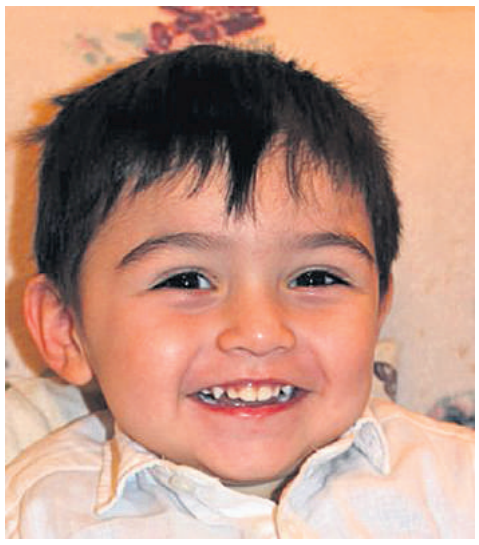

Philip loses his crowning glory - all in aid of a good cause!

LITTLE Philip Sutton is feeling a touch 'light-headed' after losing his crowning glory - but it's all in a good cause.

The two-year-old from Mawdesley had a sponsored hair cut and donated eight inches of his previously flowing locks to a children's charity which makes wigs for cancer sufferers.

His granny Lorna Lambert told the Champion: "When Philip was born in September 2013, his mum Karen, decided to grow his hair so that they could donate it to the Little Princess Trust which supplies real-hair wigs, free of charge, to youngsters across the UK who have lost their hair as a result of cancer treatment.

"His hair needed to be at least seven inches long so once it had reached that length - plus a little more to make sure he had some left! - he had his beautiful hair cut at home by family friend, Jane Rowan, who is a stylist at Silhouette in Parbold.

"She kindly donated her time and expertise to achieve a perfect little-boy haircut!"

● **Left: Philip Sutton before his charity crop (above) and after (below)**

Shoplifter in court after police appeal on Facebook

A SHOPLIFTER from Burscough has appeared in court after police posted CCTV pictures of her on Facebook.

Samantha Robinson, 33, of Liverpool Road South, was captured on security cameras placing two DVD box sets into a shoulder bag at WH Smith in Ormskirk on November 18 before going to the till to pay for just a newspaper.

Prosecuting at Ormskirk Magistrates Court on February 9, Philippa White said: "The alarms were activated but she was not pursued at the time. Images were passed to police and she was identified after they were placed on their Facebook page."

Solicitor Mike Flynn said Robinson had sold the DVDs to buy food as she was having difficulty with her benefits.

She has since been sentenced to an 18-month community order on November 30 for two other thefts and going equipped for theft, he said, adding: "If these new offences had been before the court on November 30 would it have affected the sentence? Probably not."

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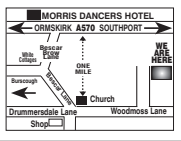

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Two new directors appointed to hospital trust board

THE NHS Trust Development Authority has confirmed the appointment of Carol Baxter and Ann Pennell as non-executive directors of Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust.

Professor Carol Baxter's career has embraced the public sector in a variety of roles, including as a nurse-advisor to central government departments, national and international agencies and as a professor of nursing.

She was also head of equality, diversity and human rights at NHS employers from 2005 to 2014.

Ann Pennell has more than 15 years' experience at a senior director level in local government and has held a number of board-level management positions working closely with the NHS in children and young people's services, social care, and housing, education and regeneration.

Carol and Ann have been appointed for two years each and are entitled to receive a remuneration of £6,157 a year.

Carol's term of office runs until January 31, 2018 and Ann's until December 21, 2017.

They succeed Rodney Dykes, who had completed the maximum tenure of eight years on the board, and Caroline Whalley-Hunter who leaves after three years.

Trust chair, Sue Musson, said: "I am delighted to welcome Carol and Ann. They bring a wealth of experience which I know will be of great benefit to the trust, its staff and patients."

Non-executive appointments to NHS trusts made by the NHS Trust Development Authority are subject to the code of practice of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

The current members of the board are listed on the trust website.

Government accused of tying councils' hands over funding

WEST Lancs MP Rosie Cooper has accused government ministers of "tying the hands" of local government leaving them unable to keep their heads above water.

Speaking during a Westminster debate on Local Government Funding, she claimed that the day-to-day lives of West Lancashire residents are being hit by savage cuts to local councils' funding and likened communities and local government ministers' actions to that of cuts in the 1980s.

She said that Lancashire County Council had planned for £65 million in budget savings but government reforms have left them a further £11 million worse off this year alone – and that by 2020 the council will face a £303 million funding gap and will have used up all their reserves.

During the debate, she offered examples of what this means for local residents with cuts to vital bus services that are a lifeline in rural communities and people without access to a car.

She argued that, having been flooded over Christmas, local authorities do not have the monies for the necessary flood prevention measures and government refuses to provide financial assistance for the creation of an Internal Drainage Board.

West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper

She said: "This government has tied the hands and feet of local authorities behind their backs, kicked them into the water and are now standing back saying it's not our fault they can't keep their heads above water.

"This government is pushing local authorities to the brink of collapse financially and in their ability to safely deliver services.

"It is not dramatic to say there is a crisis in local government. When councils fear by 2020 they can't afford to provide services they are legally required to provide to local residents we should all be worried.

"The government is more concerned with making cuts for the sake of cuts. They want to appear to be making tough decisions. Taxpayers need them to be making the right decisions.

"Cutting budgets for social services doesn't save money, it actually costs more money because people then have to stay longer in hospital because social care is not available, which ends up costing us more money not less.

"What this shows is this government knows the cost of everything and the value of nothing. In the end it is the people of West Lancashire who are paying the price."

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Call for bullying report to be made public

WEST Lancs MP Rosie Cooper is demanding that the findings of a report, which investigated bullying culture at Liverpool Community Health NHS Trust, be made public.

Ms Cooper understands the investigation report, produced by law firm, Capsticks, has now been completed and she wants to see it on the agenda at the trust's next board meeting on Tuesday, February 23.

She said: "It has been two years since I first raised the issue of the bullying culture at Liverpool Community Health Trust in the House of Commons. Whilst the executives and board members may have left the organisation, their behaviour, conduct, and failure to protect patients and staff needs to be made public and they need to be held to account for it.

"We now await to see if this report is made publicly available at the next board meeting and what it contains. I will not stop until the full extent of the bullying culture and its consequences for patients and staff is publicly known."

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Ormskirk Bowling Club's new artificial green taking shape

Trundlers' fundraising drive for new clubhouse

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

MEMBERS of the Ormskirk Bowling Club team have launched a fundraising drive to raise £3,500 to build a new log cabin-style clubhouse.

Two new bowling greens are currently being constructed next to Ormskirk Cricket Club on Alty's Lane, with the artificial all-weather green hopefully ready for play by the end of March.

Ormskirk Bowling Club was formed in January 2013. It includes members of the former Comrades Bowling Club, which was forced to close when the social club closed in 2008 and others from the Windmill Bowling Club which was wound up earlier this year, along with new bowlers.

The greens were funded by development funds from West Lancs Council with the majority of this money from the developers of the former Comrades site on Southport Road.

Now club members are hoping to develop the sport in the local area at both junior and senior level.

To date they have raised almost £400 so far and aim to construct a log cabin to provide a clubhouse and shelter by the greens.

And they have set up an online donations page on the charity and non-profit fundraising website JustGiving.

Club chairman, Steve James, said: "This is a really exciting time for crown green bowls locally and our two new bowling greens will provide a superb facility for all the community.

"This will be the only artificial green in the area and this club will be only the second crown green club in the country to have both a grass and artificial green.

"We welcome new players of all ages and abilities and if anyone is interested in taking up the game you will be made more than welcome.

"If local people could get behind the crowdfunding for our new log cabin that would be fantastic, and if any local businesses would be interested in sponsoring us please get in touch via our website."

The club is holding its annual general meeting and pre-season meeting at Ormskirk Cricket Club Pavilion on Monday, February 22 starting at 7.30pm and anyone who is interested in finding out more, including beginners, are welcome to attend.

As well as entering teams in local leagues on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday evenings and social bowling, the club will also be holding taster and coaching sessions for those who just fancy having a go, with no obligation to join the club.

Junior players will also be made especially welcome and special sessions will be held for those aged between seven and 16, while a team has also been entered in the local junior league.

To donate to the club's appeal, visit www.justgiving.com and search for 'ormskirkbc' or find out more on the club's page on social media site Facebook or at ormskirkbowlingclub.wordpress.com.

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Constabulary seeks new PCSO recruits

LANCASHIRE Constabulary are appealing for potential Police Community Support Officers to apply for their latest recruitment window.

The vacancies are permanent and both full and part-time roles will be available, starting in June.

Evening and weekend rotas mean that people can combine working as a PCSO with their existing lifestyle and commitments.

Force chiefs say that neighbourhood policing is at the heart of what they do in Lancashire and PCSOs play a vital role working alongside regular police officers to keep their communities safe - from regulating speeding outside schools or tackling anti-social behaviour to working with partners to sort out problems that are blighting particular areas.

There are no formal qualifications required but officers need to be resilient and able to get on with a range of people and deal with them with care and compassion when needed.

The demands on the force are constantly changing and the majority of what they do to keep people safe is now non crime-related so they would be keen to hear from those with some experience of dealing with vulnerable people.

The recruitment window opens at 10am tomorrow (Thursday, February 18) and runs until Friday, March 4.

Assistant chief constable, Mark Bates *(pictured)*, said: "PCSOs are a really important part of the force and play a valuable role in communities across our county. The role is also a good training ground which allows officers to move on to other roles in the force, including being police officers, and this combined with leavers and retirements means we now need to recruit. This exercise is not about growing – but we do need to maintain our operational resilience.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for people to make a real difference to lives in Lancashire and I would encourage all those interested to give it a go and apply."

All applications must be completed online at www.lancashire.police.uk.

Complaints prompt speed checks

POLICE carried out speed checks in 20mph zones in the Up Holland and Parbold areas on Friday, February 12 following what officers described as "regular complaints."

The highest speed recorded was 40mph.

A spokesman for Lancashire Police said: "We would like to remind all drivers to beware of their speed and be aware of what the speed limits in place where you are driving are. It is your responsibility as the driver and no excuse is acceptable.

"A total of 84 out of 240 vehicles were found to be over the speed limit with nine drivers not wearing seatbelts.

"We would also like to remind motorists of the need for children under 135 cm in height or 12-years-old to be in the correct car seat. Please do not put your child at risk."

School celebrates Storytelling Week

Pupils at Rainford High celebrate National Storytelling Week

RAINFORD High School , which takes pupils from West Lancashire, celebrated National Storytelling Week in style with a variety of exciting events and projects.

Visiting storyteller, Elizabeth Morris opened the event before sharing her expertise with pupils in a series of workshops.

Students also enjoyed taking part in a range of competitive activities which encouraged them to make up stories from a series of images to unleash their creativity and improve their storytelling skills.

And Storytelling Week culminated with a celebratory Harry Potter lunch organised by the school's librarian, Mrs Relf, for the winners of the Year 7 creative writing competition.

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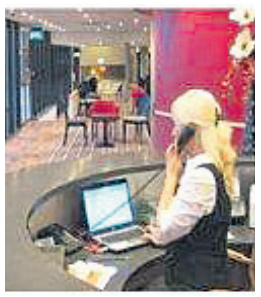

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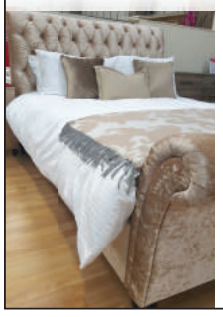

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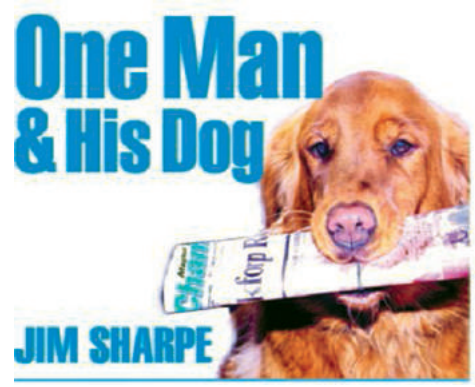
I do enjoy a good TV murder mystery - despite the niggling short cuts!



FOR years, one television programme I have always looked forward to has been Midsummer Murders.

And so it remains, despite the change in Detective Barnaby to his cousin of the same name (which for me has one added advantage in the shape of his great little dog).

It is one of those programmes where you can settle back with a mug of coffee and a biscuit or two and simply suspend belief.

True, the body count in most episodes would probably have led to the family Barnaby losing their jobs and certainly the national news media would by now have set up a permanent HQ somewhere in the Midsummer area (in fact, they seem to take no interest whatsoever in the carnage that takes place there on a regular basis).

But it remains an amusing, rather light-hearted series where you can suspend critical judgment, sit back and enjoy.

In fact, I enjoy most of the TV detective stories, from the iconic Morse downwards.

But if one is to believe that they are even loosely based on real police procedures, then one or two points mystify me greatly.

Particularly when the coppers decide they need to 'have a chat' with a suspect and they motor round to his or her pad and quite reasonably knock on the door.

But then, if there is no immediate response, these TV coppers at least always seem to assume that the non appearance of the person they want to talk to is invariably taken as a sign that he or she is up to no good.

I cannot believe that in the 'real' world, a police officer would for some reason assume that folk spend their entire lives sitting at home, just waiting for someone to call.

But these TV detectives do. It never seems to cross their minds that perhaps the person they suspect is out shopping/down the pub, or maybe actually working. Oh no, they must be up to no good.

And having not gained an immediate response they amble round to the rear of the property, peer through a window or two - and then quite often (and even in sleepy Midsummer) accidentally on purpose smash a window or door lock to get in and have a totally illegal shufti.

I'd have thought they must have a small staff back at the station dealing with quite justified complaints.

I accept that short cuts need to be taken to move the plot along, but I just cannot accept that an absence from your place of abode is somehow evidence of your guilt.

Mind you, this works the other way too. When the detectives find that their suspect has been in contact with another person involved with the mystery under investigation you would have thought that was good reason to hot-foot it to them and find out what was said and why.

But no. As often as not this line of inquiry is put on the back burner.

Not that any of these niggles put me off my regular dose of 'Vera' or 'Midsummer' - perhaps I am being hypercritical. I do think though that the writers have simply adopted a few short cuts that aren't strictly necessary and, having recognised them, they jar whenever they occur.

What is the greatest number of murders in any one of the Midsummer episodes I wonder? I'd guess somewhere around five.

Perhaps Barnaby's dog could be roped in more often to sniff out the culprits?

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Centre announces new programme

THERE is a packed programme of films and shows at the Arts Centre at Edge Hill University, Ormskirk this February.

Today (Wednesday, February 17) at 7.30pm Short Cuts Cinema presents 45 Years. About to celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary, a letter arrives for Kate's husband: the body of his first love has been discovered in the icy Swiss Alps glaciers. Stars Charlotte Rampling and Tom Courtenay.

Edge Hill's Creative Writing Programme presents an evening with poet and founding editor of Oystercatcher Press, Peter Hughes on Wednesday, February 17 at 7.30pm.

Then on Wednesday, February 18 at 8pm Cara Dillon will be appearing. If you don't know the voice of Cara Dillon, (*pictured below*) you're in for a treat. If you are already among her legions of admirers around the world, you know you have something special in store.

Short Cuts Cinema presents Crimson Peak, on Wednesday, February 24 at 7.30pm. This is a gothic romance starring Tom Hiddleston, Jessica Chastain, Mia Wasikowska and Charlie Hunnam.

On Thursday, February 25 at 7pm NT Live As You Like It will be shown. Shakespeare's glorious comedy of love and change comes to the National Theatre for the first time in over 30 years, with Rosalie Craig (London Road, Macbeth at MIF) as Rosalind.

The Fabulous Lancashire Revels present Frack Off! on Thursday, February 25 at 7.30pm. When Godzilla Inc. is granted permission to frack for shale gas, the village of Maybe-in-Eden successfully blockades itself, and the police send in an informer.

Finally on Monday, February 29 at7pm there is an EHU Student Led Concert. This is a student-led concert showcasing all of the musical talent Edge Hill has to offer.

- ADVERTISING FEATURE -

Over the last 5 years Martin, Louise and the team at the Aughton Institute (fondly known locally as the 'Tute') have established a cabaret venue that has hosted a long list of top live artistes including groups, duo's, solo vocalists and comedians. Sell out audiences have enjoyed some fantastic nights of entertainment. These nights are open to everybody and membership to the club is not necessary, but new members are always welcome.

The club along with the live cabaret, has so much more to offer, including 5 match quality snooker tables, pool, darts, flood light crown green bowling, quiz team, chess club and shows all live football on 4 screens. The purpose built function suite is free to hire, with entertainment and catering packages available from Aughton Catering (www.aughtoncatering.com)

The club is looking forward to another fantastic weekend of entertainment with two well known top entertainers in the venue. Asa Murphy and Steve Charles will perform together for 2 shows over the Mothers Day weekend. As ever these shows will be sell outs, but there is still limited availability. We would like to thank all the people who have supported us so far and we look forward to many more years to come.

The Aughton Institute presents

Swing & Soul

featuring King of Swing

ASA MURPHY

and Mr Soul

STEVE CHARLES

Together for this fantastic lineup!

Saturday 5th March 7.30pm

CABARET LUNCH

Sunday 6th March 2pm-6pm

includes sandwiches

- TICKETS ONLY £15 -

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	MOTHERS DAY	
Sun 6th	Lakeland Lunch & Cruise	£38.90
Tue 8th	Fred Dibnah Heritage Centre & Bolton Market	£24.90
Fri 11th	Northwich Market & Anderton Boat Lift	£26.90
Sat 12th	City of York	£15.90
Tue 15th	Clitheroe Market & Settle	£13.90
Wed 16th	Market Drayton (Market Day) & Shrewsbury	£13.90
Fri 18th	Fleetwood Market & Freeport	£13.90
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21 MAY	• KINKY BOOTS • MOTOWN	
4 JUN	• THE STORY OF TOM JONES	
18 JUN	• SUNNY AFTERNOON • JERSEY BOYS	
2 JUL	• KINKY BOOTS • BEAUTIFUL	OR CHOOSE A
23 JUL	• ALADDIN • LION KING	MYSTERY SHOW
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OVERNIGHT HALF BOARD
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TWO NIGHTS HALF BOARD Grand Hotel

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15 APR	ELVIS (FRI) /	TOM JONES (SAT)
22 APR	ABBA (FRI) /	KYLIE (SAT)
21 OCT	JOHNNY CASH (FRI) /	DOLLY PARTON (SAT)

CADBURY WORLD & WEST MIDLANDS SAFARI PARK

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OVERNIGHT HALF BOARD
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SAT 26 MAR, 28 MAY, 2, 30 JUL, 6, 27 AUG

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5 DAYS from £179.95

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3 DAYS £99.95

TWO NIGHTS HALF BOARD Grand Hotel
• Two tribute acts - one each night

26 FEB - ELVIS / TOM JONES
18 MAR - ELTON JOHN / ROD STEWART

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• Includes admission to the Eden Project
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22, 29 APR	18, 25 APR	10, 31 JUL
17 JUN	16 MAY	7, 28 AUG
22, 29 JUL	13, 20, 27 JUN	11 SEP
5, 12, 19, 26 AUG	18, 25 JUL	* Also visits Seaton, Sidmouth, Totnes & Dartmouth
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WITH THE FABULOUS

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The King of swing & rock n roll returns with hits from the 60's

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Sunday 6th March 2016

Why not treat your mum to a delicious 2 course meal from chef's special Mother's Day menu for only **£16.99** per person!

(Served from 12noon to 9pm)

View our menu online at www.ruffordarms.com or call one of our team on

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Translated by Tom Stoppard

19th - 27th February 2016

7.45pm

Directed by Steve Pritchard

NO BOOKING CHARGES OR CARD FEES

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Entertainments

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at BURSCOUGH AIRFIELD
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on the A59 Preston to Ormskirk Road at the rear of Beaufort Care Home. Follow the signs to Burscough Ind. Estate.
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Lydiate Parish Hall · Southport Road· Lydiate
L31 43Q on the 300 bus route
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8am Sellers • 9am to 1pm Buyers
Refreshments • Admission 30p • Free Parking
To book a stall telephone 07955 901681

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Grab a bargain this Sunday
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Varied stalls, hot & cold refreshments
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THEATRES

WHAT'S ON 2016

FEBRUARY

FRI 19th
THE ABBA REUNION TRIBUTE SHOW
All the hits from Waterloo to Super Trouper and more!

SAT 20th
WHITNEY – QUEEN OF THE NIGHT
A celebration of the music and life of Whitney Houston

MON 29th
THE WORLD FAMOUS MOSCOW STATE CIRCUS
featuring back-flipping, juggling, wire-walking and roller-skating performers

MARCH

FRI 4th
CHICAGO BLUES BROTHERS
Jailbreak Tour

SAT 5th
THE AMAZING VOCAL TALENTS OF
JOE LONGTHORNE

MON 7th
RENOWNED TV CHEF
JAMES MARTIN
Plates, Mates and Automobiles

FRI 11th
TOTALLY TINA
A tribute to the Queen of Rock, Tina Turner

Fri 11th (Floral Hall)
ULTIMATE ELTON BAND
All the best of Elton John

THU 17th
THE BOOTLEG BEATLES
All the classic Beatles hits!

SAT 19th
THE ILLEGAL EAGLES
The world's official No 1 Eagles tribute

SUN 20th (12pm-3pm)
WEDDING FAYRE
Free entry, over 30 local exhibitors

APRIL

FRI 1st
THE HOLLIES

SAT 9th
BACK TO BACHARACH
Magic moments from the Burt Bacharach songbook

SAT 16th
THE KING OF POP - THE LEGEND CONTINUES
Moonwalk the night away with the leading Michael Jackson tribute

FRI 22nd
MAGIC - A KIND OF QUEEN

SAT 23rd
TELL ME ON A SUNDAY
Starring JODIE PRENGER
Andrew Lloyd Webber and Don Black's classic musical

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EVENTS - OUT & ABOUT

Formby Hall
Golf Resort & Spa

WEDDING SHOW
SUNDAY 21ST FEBRUARY
11.00AM - 4.00PM
FORMBY HALL GOLF RESORT & SPA
SOUTHPORT OLD ROAD, FORMBY L37 0AB

FREE ENTRY

2 stunning catwalk shows 12.30pm & 2.30pm.

NEXT WEDDING SHOW
SUNDAY 28TH FEBRUARY
Hilton Liverpool
3 THOMAS STEERS WAY
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EVENTS - OUT & ABOUT

Don't Miss Out!

The Venue at Maghull Town Hall

MOTOWN NIGHT
Friday 19th February
Radio City's Mr Motown Jon Jessop
Bottle and Lager Promotions
FREE ENTRY
LATE BAR
Buy a single spirit GET A DOUBLE Plus MANY MORE promotions

Last Friday of the Month: COMEDY NIGHT with Sam Avery featuring some great comics

MOTHERS DAY
Sunday 6th March • 2pm-8pm
Fantastic afternoon of Motown music and comedy
starring Ivan Stax and Pauline Daniels
Hosted by Jon Jessop
Tickets £20 including Vintage Afternoon Tea
Supporting the
WALKING WITH GIANTS Foundation
TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

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& NEW FOREST VILLAGES
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TORBAYS, BABBACOMBE
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Newly Refurbished Sea Front Hotel
Entertainment & Excursions Included
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JUST FOR SINGLE TRAVELLERS
AYRSHIRE COAST - Scotland
Mon March14 - 5 Days, DBB
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All Inclusive
FREE HOME PICK UPS
Mon February 29 - 5 Days
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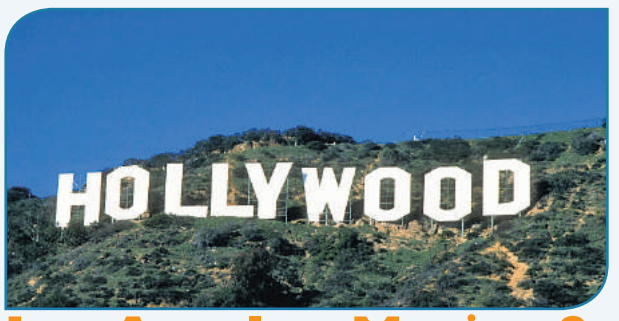

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BOUDICCA
14th May 2016 – 16 Nights
Rural & Rugged Canada
Liverpool > Killybegs > St John > St Pierre > Sydney, Canada > Corner Brook, Newfoundland > Red Bay, Labrador > Belfast > Liverpool
Price From: £1,699pp

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29th August 2016 – 8 Nights
Norwegian Fjords
Liverpool > Olden > Flam > Bergen > Kirkwall, Orkney Islands > Liverpool
Price From: £999pp

BOUDICCA
16th September 2016 – 8 Nights
Rural & Rugged Canada
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The Mediterranean to Istanbul & Back
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7th November 2016 – 13 Nights
The Canary Islands
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Price From: £1,159pp

BOUDICCA
29th November 2016 – 21 Nights
The Canary Islands & Cape Varde
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Price From: £1,699pp

BOUDICCA
18th December 2016 – 18 Nights
Christmas in the Canaries
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DR. AXELRODS Mini atlas of freshwater aquarium fishes, 992 pages of text and colour photos,-superb book, cost nearly £25, sell £10. 01704 212816

SEWING MACHINE Antique Singer manual sewing machine, very beautiful & decorative collectible in good working order. Comes in a wooden case. Offers invited please 07969122625

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JEAN PLAIDY collection of 12 paperback books. BRAND NEW. Unread. All about Tudor period of history. Excellent storytelling. All 12 books £20ono 01704 553972

SONY CAMERA NEX-5 14.2 mp Compact System Camera with modern 16 to 50mm OSS lens. ring for full details. £220 ovno 01704 574605

7 BOOKS by Lesley Pearse in paperback all in very good condition, £10 01704 875299

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

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SKY BOXES Two. Spares or repair only. £10 each. Skelmersdale 07834231420

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3 PIECE SUITE Bridgecraft Design. VGC. £200. 01695 633323

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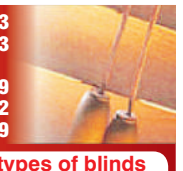

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WOMENS KARL largerfeld perfumed body lotion new sealed 150ml bargain £10 01515319425-07773242918

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SLENDERTONE ABS Slendertone Abs and bottom with storage bags controllers extra pads. Cost £350 sell for £90 07444 847695

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CHANDLER BERYL

Beryl's family would like to express gratitude to all friends and relatives for the support shown to them following the sad loss of Beryl. Thank you to Connell Court Care Home for the exemplary care given to Beryl. Thank you to Rev. Peter Hughes and Emma Holroyd at Lord Street West United Church for the thoughtful funeral service and lovely refreshments. Thank you also to Carl and Nicky Howard at Howard's Funeral Directors for the excellent funeral arrangements.

CULSHAW JANE (Jenny)

R.I.P.

Sandra and family would like to thank all relatives and friends for the expressions of sympathy and support given to them following their sad loss. Thank you also for the generous donations received for The Poor Clare Monastery. Special thanks to Father Philip Gregory for his words of comfort and to Carl Howard of Howard's Funeral Directors for the dignified funeral arrangements.

PRAYERS

Saint Jude's Novena

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be glorified, loved and pre-served throughout the world now and forever.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us, St. Jude worker of miracles pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hope-less pray for us.

Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 8th day your prayers may be answered. Say it for 9 days and it has never been known to fail.

Publication must be promised. Thank you St. Jude

Instructions:
Light your candle and declare out loud what miracle you need right now. Repeat this prayer 9 times for 9 days. Do this at the same time each day, never skip a day. If you do, you need to start over again. On the 9th day give thanks, and say "So be it." Give it up to Saint Jude and let go of any worry. You will see results in 72 hours. Never use this prayer to manipulate or control anyone. Use it only with the best intentions.

This is the most important part of the entire process YOU MUST pass this miracle prayer onto others. Some people publish it in the paper, others e-mail it to their friends, and others post it in a public building.

T.Y.

PRAYERS

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T.Y.

BIRTHDAYS

SHEA GALLAGHER

17th February

Happy 21st Birthday to my baby boy who's 21.

Lots of love today & always.

Mum xxx

SHEA GALLAGHER 'OUR LIL BRO'

17th February

Happy 21st Birthday mate

All our love Emma & George, Ashlea & Scott

SHEA GALLAGHER

17th February

Happy 21st Birthday to our Uncle Shea

Love from Wade & Frankie, Bailey & Kyah xxxx

To place a family announcement please call 01704 392392

BIRTHDAYS

SHEA GALLAGHER

17th February

Happy 21st Birthday

Lots of love from Nan & all the family.

xxx

To place a family announcement please call 01704 392392

DEATHS

TAYLOR ZAC (THE CAT)

On 11th February 2016
Suddenly aged 11 years

Our much loved son. The awful pain of losing you is still so hard to bear. It's difficult to face the day and know that you're not there. For you always meant everything and made each day so bright. But now you're gone, the world seems dark without your shining light. But cherished, special and so loved you always will remain. God bless you, precious son, until the day we meet again. Much loved son of Vanessa and Paul. Cherished brother of Shaun, Paul Michael, Kelsey Ashley and Callum. Will be very sadly missed by all his family and friends. Family flowers only please by request. Donations if desired for C.R.Y. For funeral details and further enquiries contact Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane. Tel: 01695 559868.

PREW MARGARET

5th February 2016
Aged 76 years

Much loved and admired Sister of John and the late Barbara. Sadly missed by her family and so many friends, a great musical loss to Southport. Funeral Service at Lord Street West United Church on Thursday 18th February at 10:45 am followed by committal at Southport Crematorium. Donations are being gratefully received in lieu of flowers for Diabetes UK. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 19a Banastre Road, Southport, PR8 5AW. Telephone: 01704 500086.

DEATHS

THOMPSON LESLIE DOUGLAS (Les)

9th February 2016

Peacefully at Birch Green Care Centre aged 75 years of Upholland.

The dearly loved Husband of Doris, loving Dad of Shirley, Gaynor and Christine and devoted Grandad to all his Grandchildren. Funeral service at St Helens Crematorium on Thursday 18th February 2016 at 10:30am. Family flowers please, donations if desired to The Alzheimers Society. All enquiries to H. Hardman & Co. Independent Family Funeral Directors or Skelmersdale. Tel: 01695 722122/720012

BANCROFT RICHARD

9th February 2016
Aged 78 years

Devoted and much loved Husband of Muriel. Loving Dad to Jed and Debbie, Step-father to Mike, Leanda and Mark, devoted Grandpa to all his Grandchildren. He will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Service at Southport Crematorium on Friday 19th February at 10:00am. Donations in lieu of flowers are being gratefully received for Dementia UK. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 19a Banastre Road, Southport, PR8 5AW. Telephone: 01704 500086.

WEBSTER PHILOMENA

Passed away peacefully on 7th February 2016, aged 58 years.

Dearest, and loving, Wife to Nick, much loved Mother to Jonathan and Ruth, beloved Sister to Marion, Finola, Monica and Patricia. Funeral Mass to take place at St. Anne's R.C. Church Ormskirk on Thursday 18th February at 12:30pm followed by Committal at West Lancashire Crematorium Pippin Street Burscough. Family flowers only please but donations if so desired to British Heart Foundation. For further enquiries please contact Hunters Funeral Directors, 128B Burscough Street, Ormskirk, L39 2EY, Tel: 01695 572997

DEATHS

MCFARLANE-SIMONS RACHEL MARY

10th February 2016
Suddenly aged 46 years

Rachel will be sadly missed by David and her three daughters, Loren, Shannon and Lille-Mae.

For funeral details and further enquiries contact Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane. Tel 01695 559868.

MOSS PATRICIA (PAT)

9th February 2016
Peacefully in hospital aged 83 years

Loving Wife of the late Len, devoted Mum of David and Christopher, dear Mother-in-law of Christine and Cathy, cherished Nanna of Kirsty, Sean and Great Nanna of Jaspa and caring Sister of Betty, will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service and interment will take place at St Richards Church on Friday 19th February at 2.00pm. Family flowers only please by request, donations if desired for the British Heart Foundation. All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane. Tel 01695 559868.

TAYLOR ZAC (THE CAT)

On 11th February 2016.

Our darling grandson Zac.
You always had a smile to share,
time to give and time to care.
A loving nature kind and true is the way we will remember you.
Love you so much our baby.
We can only ask why?
Love you always and forever.
Never forget you.
Broken hearted Nan and Grandad.

DEATHS

CHADWICK BRIAN

11th February 2016
Peacefully at home aged 61 years.

Loving Husband of Miriam, devoted Dad, Grandad and Great Grandad. Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Partings come and hearts are broken, loved ones go with words unspoken, deep in our hearts there's a memory kept, for a Husband I will never forget. Funeral details and further enquiries to Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel: 01695 559868

CHADWICK BRIAN

11th February 2016

You've earned your place in heaven Dad, after all that you've been through, I wish I could have helped you, but there was nothing I could do. Peacefully sleeping now out of pain, I would not wake you up to suffer again.

Loving Daughter Amanda, Son in law Ian, Grandchildren Nat, Daniel, Andrew and Nikki.

CHADWICK BRIAN

11th February 2016

Remembering you is easy Dad, I do it every day, and missing you is something that will never go away.

Loving Son Brian and Grandaughter Jade

IN MEMORIAM

Johnson Edward (Eddie)

15th February 2011

I miss talking to you,
I miss the laughter,
I miss our trips out,
I miss my Dad.

But Dad,
As long as I have memories,
As long as I have tears,
You'll never be forgotten,
Not in a million years

Loving daughter
San and Alec
x x

Johnson Edward (Eddie)

15th February 2011

Some gifts in life are big and some are small,
But to have had you in our lives Dad,
was the greatest gift of all.

from Alan and Carol
xx

Johnson Edward (Eddie)

15th February 2011

We miss you Grandad in so many ways,
We miss the things you used to say,
and when old times we do recall,
It's then we miss you most of all.

Grandson Phil, Kelly and great grandson Daniel
xxx

Johnson Edward (Eddie)

15th February 2011

We miss his smile, his kindly ways,
With him we spent such happy days,
We miss him when we need a friend,
on him we always could depend

Granddaughter Alison and Great Granddaughter Aimeé x x

Johnson Edward (Eddie)

15th February 2011

To hear your voice and see you smile,
to sit with you and chat a while,
That is what we wish today,
Dad in our hearts you will always stay.

Miss and love you always
Gary, Angela, Abbie & Chloe
xxxx

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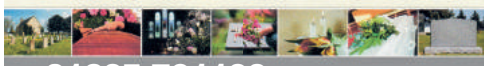

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PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

Application No: 2015/1140/FUL Development of a lit dual use foot/cycleway from Yeadon in Skelmersdale Town Centre, along the Tawd Valley to the junction of Summer Street and Marland, with an associated spur linking West Lancashire College directly to the route at Footpath To The North-west Of, Yeadon, Skelmersdale.
The proposed development affects a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 applies.
Application No: 2016/0094/FUL Replacement café and catering training centre at Midstream West Lancs Ltd, Dowding House, 2 Penrose Place, Skelmersdale.

APPLICATION(S) AFFECTING A CONSERVATION AREA / LISTED BUILDING

Application No: 2016/0127/FUL Variation of Condition No.2 imposed on Listed Building Consent 2015/0525/LBC to vary the approved plans in order to ensure stabilisation of the gable and chimney area at Moor Hall, Prescot Road, Aughton.
Application No: 2016/0129/FUL Erection of single storey lounge bay window extension after demolition of single storey lounge bay window on front elevation at 20 New Road, Rufford.
The applications are available for viewing on the Council's web site www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application no. Any comments made will be available for public inspection.
Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development
In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI
Interim Director Planning

Dated: 17th February 2016
PDNOT885

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PUBLIC NOTICES

THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(COBBS BROW LANE, NEWBURGH, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any motor vehicle from proceeding over the following lengths of Cobbs Brow Lane, Newburgh, in the Borough of West Lancashire.

i. From a point outside the Maharishi Free School to its junction with Beacon Lane;
ii. From its junction with Beacon Lane to its junction with Tabbys Nook.

An alternative route for all traffic affected by the closures is as follows:

i. Beacon Lane - Whalley's Road and vice versa.
ii. Beacon Lane - Higher Lane - A5209 Ash Brow - Cobbs Brow Lane and vice versa

The temporary closure is necessary to enable installation of high voltage electric cables to be carried out.

The prohibition will be operative between 1700 hours on Wednesday17th February 2016, until 1700 hours on Friday29th April 2016, or until completion of the works within this period.

NB - Closure i will be completed before closure ii commences - both closures will not be in place at the same time.

Authority given for this Order to be made:
Laura Padden, Highway Regulation and Inspection Manager
Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701

[Ref: LHS/15/1923/ARH]

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL
INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL
RECEIPT OF REPORT FOR 2016/2017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that West Lancashire Borough Council has received a report from the Independent Remuneration Panel appointed under Regulation 22(4) of The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

The Panel's recommendations in respect of the year beginning 1 April 2016 are summarised as follows:

Basic Allowance: £4,842 (no increase)

Special Responsibility Allowances:
if the Council decides to pay such allowances, the rates should be as follows:

a. Leader of the Council..... £12,105
b. Deputy Leader £7,263
c. Portfolio Holder..... £4,842
d. Opposition Group Leader £3,389
e. Opposition Group Deputy Leader..... £1,694
f. Chairmen of Overview &..... £2,421
Scrutiny Committees
g. Chairman of Planning Committee..... £5,810
h. Chairman of Licensing &..... £2,421
Appeals Committee
i. Chairman of Licensing &..... £2,421
Gambling Committee
j. Chairman of Audit &..... £2,421
Governance Committee

No changes are recommended in relation to Childcare and Dependant Carer's allowance, or Travel and subsistence allowances

The IRP has recommended that the Basic Allowance should be fixed for a 4 year period until 31 March 2020. The Council will consider the report at its meeting on 24 February 2016

The report of the Panel is available for inspection by members of the public during normal office hours (between 9am and 4.45pm, Monday to Friday) at the Council's offices at 52 Derby Street Ormskirk. Copies of the report may be purchased on payment of 50 pence per sheet.

Dated: 15 February 2016

Terry Broderick
Interim Borough Solicitor
52 Derby Street
Ormskirk
Lancashire, L39 2DF
01695 577177
www.westlancs.gov.uk

WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015
NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 PUBLICITY FOR APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

PLANNING APPLICATION NO - LCC/2016/0015
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT - ERECTION OF AN ELECTRICITY SUBSTATION TO SUPPLY REFURBISHED FACTORY FOLLOWING FIRE DAMAGE AT WHITEMOSS HORTICULTURAL, NORTH PERIMETER ROAD, KNOWSLEY INDUSTRIAL PARK, KIRKBY

I give notice that Whitemoss Horticulture is applying to the Lancashire County Council for the above development.

The proposed development is within green belt.

Members of the public may inspect copies of the application, plans and documents at Lancashire County Council, Development Management Group, County Hall, PO Box 100, Preston, PR1 0LD or at the Planning Department, West Lancashire Borough Council, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk during normal office hours until 9 March 2016.The application can also be viewed on the County Council's website **planningregister.lancashire.gov.uk**

Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the County Council by 9 March 2016 at the above address, via email DevCon@lancashire.gov.uk or via 'Have your Say' on the County Council's website.

Information regarding the decision will be available on the website within 5 working days of the decision. Details on how to speak at the Development Control Committee are also available on the web page

Andy Mullaney, Head of Service for Planning and Environment
On Behalf of Lancashire County Council
Date: 17 February 2016

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(B5197 PRESCOT ROAD, AUGHTON, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Lancashire County Council intend to make an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any motor vehicle proceeding over that length of B5197 Prescot Road, Aughton from its junction with Town Green Lane to the County boundary in the Borough of West Lancashire

An alternative route for vehicles affected by the closure is as follows: B5197 Prescot Road - A506 Cunscough Lane - A506 Liverpool Road - A570 Ormskirk Road - A570 St Helens Road - A570 Park Road - B5197 Aughton Street B5197 Prescot Road and vice versa.

The temporary prohibition is necessary to enable carriageway patching works to be carried out.

The prohibition will be operative daily from 0800 hours until 1700 hours on Monday 22nd February 2016 to Friday 26th February 2016 , or until completion of the works within this period.

Authority given for this Order to be made:
Laura Padden, Highway Regulation and Inspection Manager
Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701

[Ref: HRiT/1850/ARH]

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(POOL HEY LANE, SCARISBIRCK, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any motor vehicle from proceeding over that length of Pool Hey Lane, Scarisbrick for a distance of 20 metres either side of the level crossing, in the Borough of West Lancashire.

An alternative route for vehicles affected by the closure is as follows: Pool Hey Lane - Wyke Road - Wyke Cop Road - Snape Green - A570 Southport Road - Pool Hey Lane and vice versa.

The temporary prohibition is necessary to enable essential level crossing maintenance to be carried out.

The prohibition will be operative from 2359 hours on Thursday 18th February 2016, until 0800 hours, on Friday 19th February 2016 or until completion of the works within this period.

Authority given for this Order to be made:
Laura Padden, Highway Regulation and Inspection Manager
Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701

[Ref: HRiT/1875/ARH]

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(ORRELL LANE, BURSCOUGH, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any motor vehicle from proceeding over that length of Orrell Lane, Burscough from its junction with Victoria Street for a distance of 30 metres in a westerly direction, in the Borough of West Lancashire.

An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- Victoria Street - Orrell Lane and vice versa.

The temporary prohibition is necessary to enable telecommunications works to be carried out

The prohibition will be operative from 0930 hours until 1530 hours on Tuesday 23rd February 2016, or until completion of the works within this period.

Laura Padden, Highway Regulation and Inspection Manager
Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701

[Ref: 15/1831/ARH]

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council
is currently seeking expressions
of interest for an **Ice Cream Concession**
and a **Hot Food Concession**
to trade from mobile units at Beacon Country Park, Up Holland from 2016 to 2019.

For further details, offer forms and terms and conditions please contact Stephen Kent, Leisure Operations Manager on **01695 585169**
or **stephen.kent@westlancs.gov.uk**

Closing date for return of offer forms is 15th March 2016

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(GREENS LANE, DOWNHOLLAND, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.

1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of Greens Lane, Downholland from a point outside property number 1 Greens Lane to a point outside the property known as "Tanpit House".

2. The prohibition will be operative from 0800 hours until 1700 hours on Tuesday 23rd February 2016 or, until completion of the works within this period.

3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- Greens Lane - Eager Lane - Hall Lane - A5147 Southport Road - A5147 Mairscough Lane - B5195 Broad Lane - Greens Lane and vice versa

The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow high level electric cabling works to be carried out.

Authority given for this Order to be made:
Laura Padden, Highway Regulation and Inspection Manager
Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701

[Ref: HRiT/16/08/1888/arh]

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

LEGAL NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council
The Local Authority
(Referendums)
(Petitions) (England) Regulations 2011

Publication of Verification Number

In accordance with Regulation 4(1) of the above regulations the number that is equal to 5% of the number of local government electors shown in the revised register of electors having effect on the 15th February 2016 is:

4201

This figure will have effect for the purposes of determining the validity of Petitions presented from 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017.

The number equal to 5% of the local government electors for 2017 will be published within 14 days of the 15th February 2017. If this number is less than 4201, the number to be used for verification purposes, in relation to any petition presented in the period beginning on the date of publication of the lower number and ending on 31st March 2017, shall be that lower number.

Kim Webber B.Sc., M.Sc. Electoral Registration Officer
West Lancashire Borough Council, 52 Derby Street,
Ormskirk, West Lancashire L39 2DF
17 February 2016

THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(B5197 PRESCOT ROAD, AUGHTON, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any motor vehicle proceeding over that length of B5197 Prescot Road, Aughton from its junction with Town Green Lane to the County boundary in the Borough of West Lancashire.

An alternative route for vehicles affected by the closure is as follows: B5197 Prescot Road - A506 Cunscough Lane - A506 Liverpool Road - A570 Ormskirk Road - A570 St Helens Road - A570 Park Road - B5197 Aughton Street B5197 Prescot Road and vice versa.

The temporary prohibition is necessary to enable carriageway patching works to be carried out.

The prohibition will be operative daily from 0800 hours until 1700 hours on Monday 22nd February 2016 to Friday 26th February 2016 , or until completion of the works within this period.

Authority given for this Order to be made:
Laura Padden, Highway Regulation and Inspection Manager
Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701

[Ref: HRiT/1850/ARH]

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Supercars like the Noble M600 are a big draw for Cholmondeley

CHOLMONDELEY Power and Speed. It might sound like the world's poshest brand of energy drink but it's actually a vow to bring three days of high octane fun right here to the North West.

Chances are you'll already know it by its not that dissimilarly named predecessor, the Cholmondeley Pageant of Power. It's long been a good idea; give the grounds of a stately pile in deepest Cheshire over to some car nuts for three days, flood the grounds with every Jaguar XJ220, Noble M600 and Ariel Atom you can find and see what happens.

For the past eight years the Pageant of Power's managed to win over folk who don't normally go to car shows. Don't me get me wrong, I love wandering around parks looking at rows of Ford Anglias but I fully understand if it's not your thing. Cholmondeley, on the other hand, offers you the chance to see Ferraris being raced against the clock and to hear the anarchic growl of Group B rally cars being driven in anger. It's got a thrill factor that pulls in people with even the faintest interest in cars.

Yet – even as one of the event's biggest fans – I'll freely admit the same thing every year was beginning to feel a bit staid, which is why I'm glad the people behind it are vowing it's not just a case of Opal Fruits being rebranded as Starburst.

For starters all the car clubs, who for years have been relegated to the edge of the public car park, an eternity away from all the exciting stuff, are being moved somewhere visitors will actually find them. That's great news because they always bring along scores of wonderful cars – think TVRs, Audi Quattros and Nissan Skylines – and now you won't have to walk miles out of your way to see them.

The renamed event also has more in the way of tie-ups with car manufacturers – including the chance to drive some of them for yourself on the opening day – as well as a renewed focus on having lots of supercars being put through their paces at this year's event. It's also telling that while the organisers could have picked somewhere in the North West to announce everything, they did it in London instead. Yes, that London, all the way down there in the South. The new Cholmondeley will be so good that people 'daahn saaf' will want to join us!

The one thing I'm keeping my fingers crossed for is Cholmondeley resisting the rather obvious path of becoming the North's answer to the Goodwood Festival of Speed. Having been to both I actually prefer what we've got because it's friendlier, less corporate and – crucially – you see cars rather than the back of people's heads. Whatever happens, make a date for June 10-12.

Just when I was going to give Cholmondeley a miss because I've seen it all before they shake things up a bit. Even if it does sound like a posh energy drink.

Skoda unveils 'Vision' for new six-seater

SKODA'S making no secret of the fact it wants to make a big off-roader – in fact, its closest clue yet as to what the new model will look like is being unveiled at next month's Geneva Motor Show. The Vision S – likely to be given a new name before it goes into production– is larger than the Yeti and Roomster models and has six seats. The production model is being officially launched towards the end of the year.

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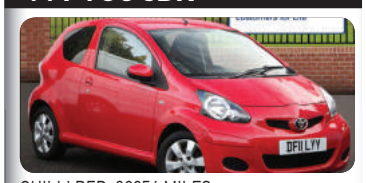

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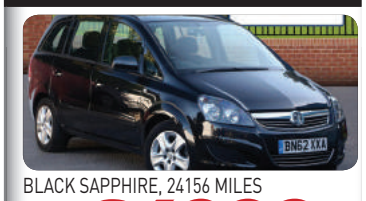

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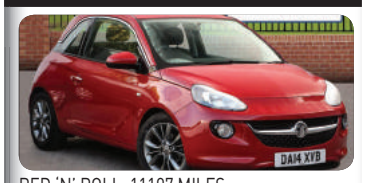

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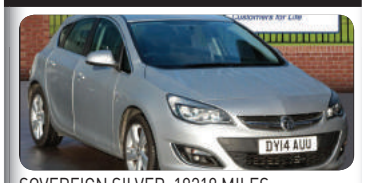

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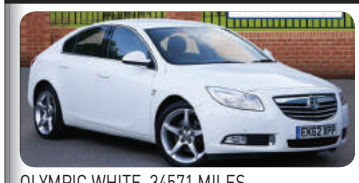

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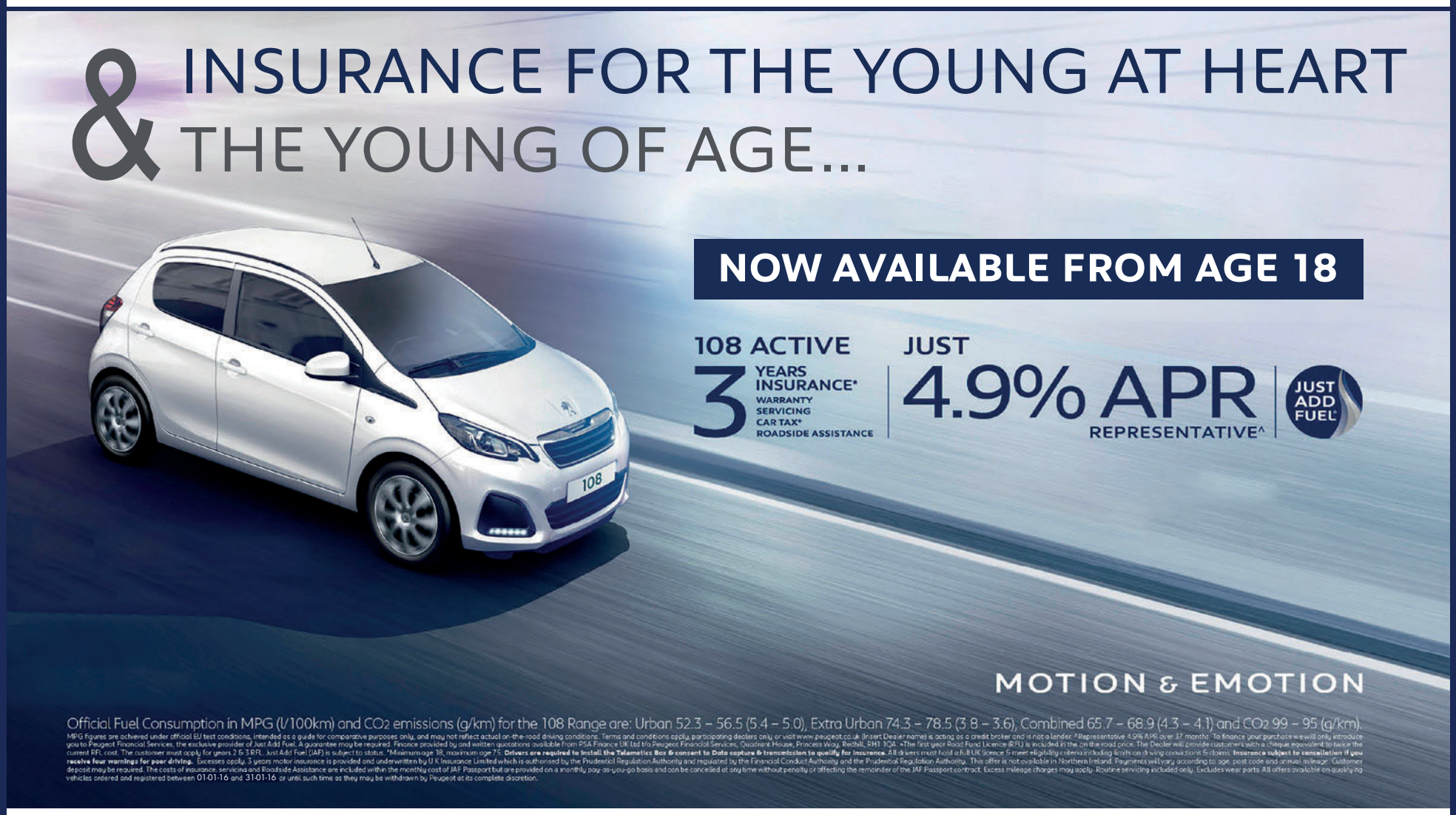

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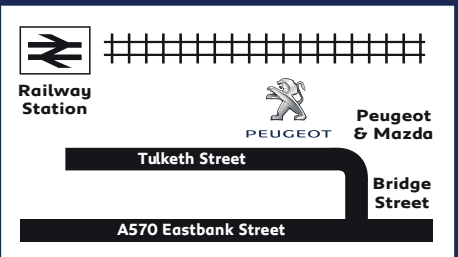

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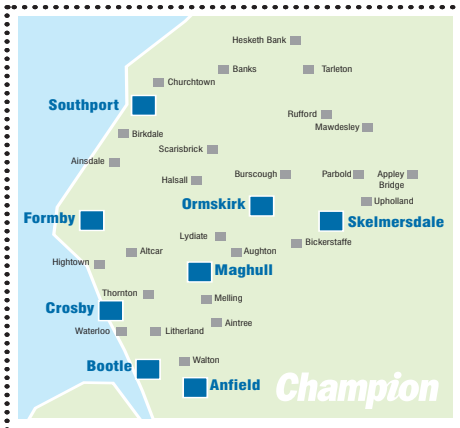

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Skelmersdale clinch back-to-back wins

Skelmersdale 2
Ilkeston 1

SKELMERSDALE recorded back-to-back wins in the league for the first time since August to put more distance between themselves and the relegation zone, *writes Simon Driscoll.*

The win came thanks to goals from debutant striker Dylan Vassallo and Robbie Booth to give them all three points.

An early chance for Paul Woolcott forced a save from Robins keeper Jamie Hannis but the Ilkeston stopper was beaten just before the ten minute mark when a superb long ball from Kenny Strickland found Vassallo who fired the hosts in front.

The lead could have been doubled when Max Hazeldine chased a long pass only to put the ball past the post. Valter Fernandes threatened the Robins defence with a dangerous cross on 15 minutes before a clever move allowed Vassallo to force a block from the Ilkeston defence

Ilkeston came close to an instant impact in the second half as Udoh forced a save from Fearon and from the resulting corner, Michael Williams glanced the ball past Fearon to level at 1-1.

Skelmersdale had a good chance to regain the lead a few minutes later as Robbie Booth connected to a corner from Louis Corrigan forcing a save from Hannis before a clever cross from Corrigan just before the hour mark saw McIntosh head achingly past the post.

A dashing run into the box from Hazeldine on 77 minutes saw a poor clearance fall to Booth on the edge of the box who made no mistake in firing into the top corner to put Skelmersdale back in front at 2-1.

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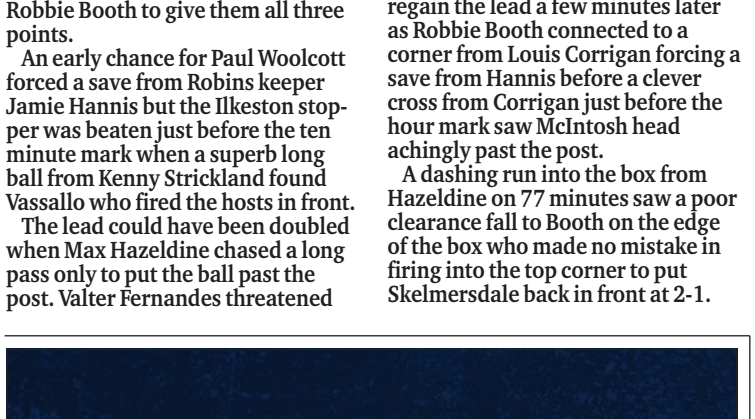

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Lawson is happy with team's progress

Report by **Neil Leatherbarrow**

UNITED'S victory at home to Ilkeston on Saturday gave them a record of played five won three and drawn one over recent weeks, making it 10 points out a possible 15 - decent form indeed.

And it's a pleasing statistic for manager Tommy Lawson who believes the return to a 'regular' line-up has played a crucial part in that good run of form.

Although a 4-1 victory at Colwyn Bay was followed by a 3-1 defeat at promotion-chasing Stourbridge, that was nevertheless a promising effort by Skem.

And they followed that with a 1-1 draw at home to Ramsbottom United and 2-1 successes against Hyde United and Ilkeston.

Perhaps significant to the run has been the return to the team of defender Tony Rendell and midfielder Paul Woolcott, along with the signing of forward Max Hazeldine on loan from Accrington Stanley.

When Skem were at their best it coincided with some good form from Rendell. And before Woolcott had to absent himself due to work commitments, the addition of Hazeldine has undoubtedly given them an edge up front that has been missing all season.

Manager Tommy Lawson

Two other stand-out players have been goalkeeper Martin Fearon and forward Chris Almond.

Tommy Lawson commented on the run earlier in the week when he said; "In many ways we are back playing the Skelmersdale way. We are collectively working very hard and are creating far more chances than we were.

"Saturday showed how we can defend when we have to and Tony Rendell made a difference, especially his combination with Rob McIntosh in the centre of defence.

"We are back on the two points average per game that I consider very important if a team is to progress and I must thank the lads for the commitment they are showing."

On the injury front, Phil Mooney is reportedly a couple of weeks away from a return and he was on the bench on Saturday. The other major casualty Shaun Holden is apparently doing well recovering from the knee injury he got at Sutton Coldfield and could be back in training in about two weeks.

Skelmersdale were at home last night (Tuesday) against Rushall Olympic before a couple of away trips.

On Saturday, February 20 they are over in Yorkshire to tackle Frickley Athletic, then on Tuesday, February 23 they visit struggling Ramsbottom United.

Next home match is against Grantham Town at Stormy Corner on Saturday, February 27.

Linnets suffer narrow defeat at Trafford

Trafford 1
Burscough 0

BURSCOUGH'S recent good form came to a grinding halt after a disappointing loss away at Trafford.

The Linnets had been undefeated in the last three games prior to this fixture, picking up seven points in doing so, but became unstuck against a well-drilled Trafford side.

In a tight opener which saw both defences coping well with each other's attacks, the first chance fell to the Linnets in the 15th minute when Paul Williams' powerful free kick from 25 yards was saved at full length by Russ Saunders.

As the first half wore on, Trafford grew into the game with Kyle Jacobs and Chris Palmer dominating the midfield.

In the 40th minute, Trafford had a goal ruled out when a strike from the edge of the area was chalked off because the attacker had shouted "leave it", meaning Burscough were awarded a free-kick.

Three minutes later, the away keeper, Calvin Hare, was forced into a good save from Trafford player Mitchell Bryant.

Both teams were rather careless in possession in the opening stages of the second half but the first chance fell to Trafford in the 57thminute when Jacobs released Bryant whose fierce effort flew inches over the crossbar.

Five minutes later the deadlock was finally broken when Bryant neatly collected a cross from the left on his chest and swivelled to rifle a great half volley into the roof of the net from ten yards.

Burscough striker Will Jones then fired over from the right before Liam Davies almost made it two when he shot into the side-netting from 20 yards.

The remaining ten minutes saw Burscough throw everything forward in an attempt to rescue a point but Trafford centre backs Josh Granite and Mitch Duggan held firm. The nearest the visitors came to snatching an equaliser was when Alex Honeyball headed over in the 86thminute.

The result leaves Burscough in sixth place, which is one below the play offs, but they still have three games in hand over some of their rivals.

They were due to play last night (Tuesday) at home against Prescot Cables with a 7.45pm kick off.

This Saturday, the Linnets are at home again to Ossett Town. Kick off 3pm.

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